

# SESSION 5

## INTEGRATIVES APPROACHES

### **O15 An integrative approach to control potato soil borne diseases**

Karima Bouchek-Mechiche (inov3pt/INRAE-IGEPP, France)

### **O16 Impact of tillage on soil biological quality and potato diseases in an agroecological potato production system**

Alexander Kröner (inov3pt/INRAE-IGEPP, France)

### **O18 Holland Innovative Potato Building Block 3: Mining for novel disease resistance in the Solanum germplasm**

Jack Vossen (WUR, The Netherlands)

### **P22 From soil biological fertility to potato health. How to combine agroecological farming practices in a field experiment ?**

Claudine Pasco (INRAE-IGEPP, France)

### **P23 From soil biological fertility to potato health. How to assess soil biological quality ?**

Alexander Kröner (inov3pt/INRAE-IGEPP, France)

### **P24 Design, experimentation and evaluation of an agroecological cropping system for seed potato production**

Mathilde Libert (Comité Nord Plants de Pommes de Terre)



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# An integrative approach to control potato soil borne diseases

**Celia Cholez & Karima Bouchek-Mechiche**



EAPR Pathology and Pests Section Meeting, 3-6 September 2023, Arras (France)

## Presentation outline

- ❖ Context and goals
- ❖ Methodology approach
- ❖ Some examples of the outputs of the study
- ❖ Conclusion & discussion



# Context and goals

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## Context

1. Scientific studies rarely include the multiplicity of pathogens, almost are single-pathogen
2. Control strategies are pathogen-specific

## The goals of this study

1. To develop an integrated approach to control several pathogens together on potato crop
2. To move from a mono-pathogenic to a multi-pathogenic approach



# Methodology Approach

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# Diseases involved in the study

## Fungi



**Black scurf**  
*R. Solani*  
RS



**Silver scurf**  
*H. Solani*  
HS



**Black dot**  
*C. Coccods*  
CC

## Bacteria



**Common scab**  
*Streptomyces* spp.  
SC



**Netted scab**  
*S. Reticuliscabiei*  
SN

## Protist



**Powdery scab**  
*S. Subterranea*  
SSS

## Oomycete



**Leak**  
*Pythium* spp.  
Puu

## General approach

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**I. Survey of existing knowledge for each disease  
( pathogen life cycle and available control methods)  
Constitution of an extensive data bases**

**II. Gathering diseases into groups according to their biological traits**

**III. Identification of common control methods**

**IV. Setting up a multi-pathogen control strategies**





# Outputs of the study

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*Some examples*

# Results

**I. Survey of existing knowledge for each disease  
( pathogen life cycle and available control methods)  
Constitution of an extensive data bases**

II. Gathering diseases into groups according to their biological traits

III. Identification of common control methods

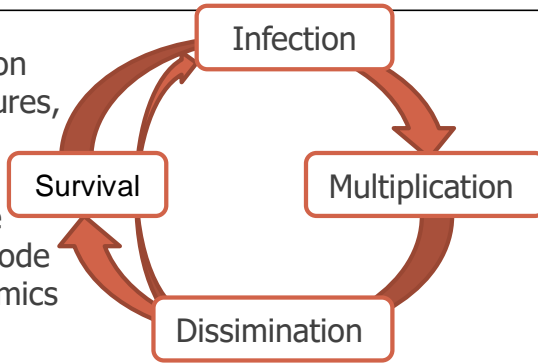
IV. Setting up a pluri-specific control strategies

# Setting up extensive database on pathogen/host/environment

M9		
A	B	C
1	<b>Disease</b>	<b>Powdery scab</b>
2	<b>Taxonomy</b>	<b>Classe</b> Phytomyxea (anciennement Plasmiodiophoromycètes sous division Myxomycètes) <b>Ordre</b> Plasmiodiophorida(Phytomyximales) <b>family</b> Plasmiodiophoridae(Plasmiodiophoracées) <b>Genus</b> Spongospora <b>Species</b> subterranea
7	<b>life cycle</b>	<b>data/references</b>
8	<b>host range</b>	<p>plusieurs plantes (Solanacées et Chenopodiacées, Poacées)sont hôtes du pathogène au stade zoospore (donc plantes relais mais pas véritable hôtes) (Harrison et al. 1997; tomate (Fornier, 1997);maïs (iftikhar, 2001); betterave et orge (Jones et Harrison, 1969), chou, blé ( Van der Wall) de même que certains adventives ( Andersen et al., 2002)comme Chenopode blanc Chenopodium album et mouron des oiseaux Stellaria media (Jones et Harrison, 1969). En revanche le stade cystosore n' a été observé que chez : tomate, moutarde jaune, avoine (Qu et Christ, 2006b); tabac rustique (Lawrence et McKenzie, 1981)et le cresson ( Harrison et al., 1997)</p> <p>blé non hôte mais stimulant le germination des spores (lorsqu'incubation des cystosores en présence de blé durant 5h <i>in vitro</i>) ( Merz, 1993)</p>
9	<b>Survival in the absence of the host</b>	<b>Survival structures</b> cystosores (ou sporosores): ballonnets de spores de conservation ou kystes de repos de forme pentagonales (~500-1000 spores) ( Lawrence et McKenzie, 1981; Falloon et al., 2007)ces spores uninucléés ou binucléés ont une enveloppe à 5 couches et sont contenus dans le cystosore qui a une paroi de 3 couches(Lahert et Kavanagh, 1985), ce qui les rend très résistants (Merz et Falloon, 2009) <b>survival organ / soil</b> cellules corticales des tubercules, racines, stolons ou sol <b>duration</b> cystosores séchés survivent plus d'1 an ( Jones et Harrison, 1969); + de 6 ans dans sol sec ( Kole, 1954)6 ans (Lawrence et al., 1981) au moins 5 ans jusqu' à 10 ans en l'absence de pdt(Diriwachter et al., 1982; Merz, 2008) baisse de l'infectivité d'un sol humide contenant des cystosores avec le temps (Merz, 1989; Makarainen et al., 1994) <b>Saprophytic capacity</b> parasite obligatoire (Merz et Falloon, 2009)
13	<b>Infection</b>	<b>Primary infection</b> semences (Johnson, 1909) +sol (Kole, 1959) <b>host receptivity</b> durant les 2 à 3 semaines après initiation (Hughes, 1980; Diriwachter et Parbery, 1991)mais tubercules plus vieux peuvent aussi être infectés à l'apex car lenticelles susceptibles( Harrison et al., 1997) <b>target organs</b> racine, stolon, tubercule, (tige) <b>Infectious propagule</b> zoospores primaires biflagellées (Kole, 1954), zoospores secondaires biflagellées
<p>← → <b>Sss-traits</b>   C. coccodes-traits   R. solani-traits   H. solani-traits   Streptomyces spp.-traits   Pythium-traits</p>		

# Data acquisition on the pathogens : selection on 16 traits

1. Survival duration
2. Survival structures,
3. Saprophytic capacity, etc.
4. Propagule type
5. Penetration mode
6. Epidemic dynamics



7. Potato receptivity
  8. Target organs
- Host ranges :**
9. Host range in general
  10. arable crops
  11. Vegetable crops
  12. Weeds

**Host**

Damage

**Pathogens**

**Environment**

13. pH
14. Humidity
15. Inoculum sources
16. Evolution in storage



**Selection of 16 traits**

## Results

I. Survey of existing knowledge for each disease  
( pathogen life cycle and available control methods)  
Constitution of an extensive data bases

**II. Gathering diseases into groups according to their biological traits**

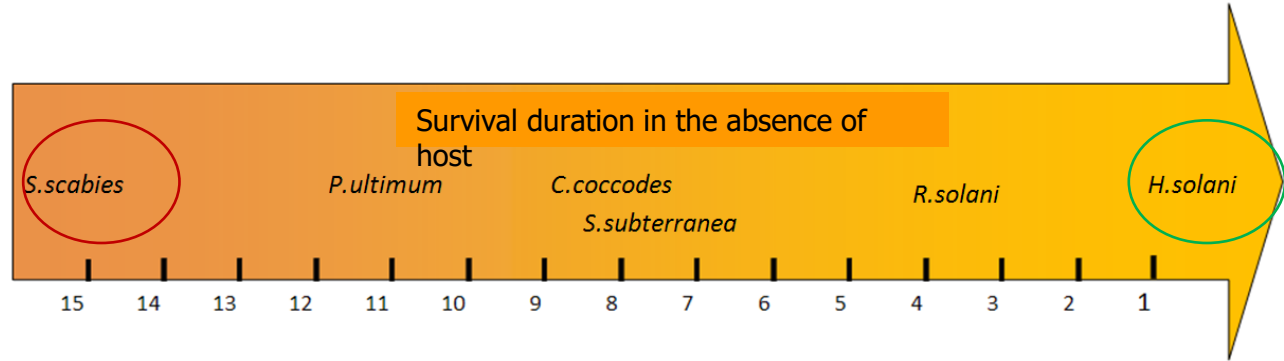
III. Identification of common control methods

IV. Setting up a pluri-specific control strategies

# Grouping the pathogens according to their traits

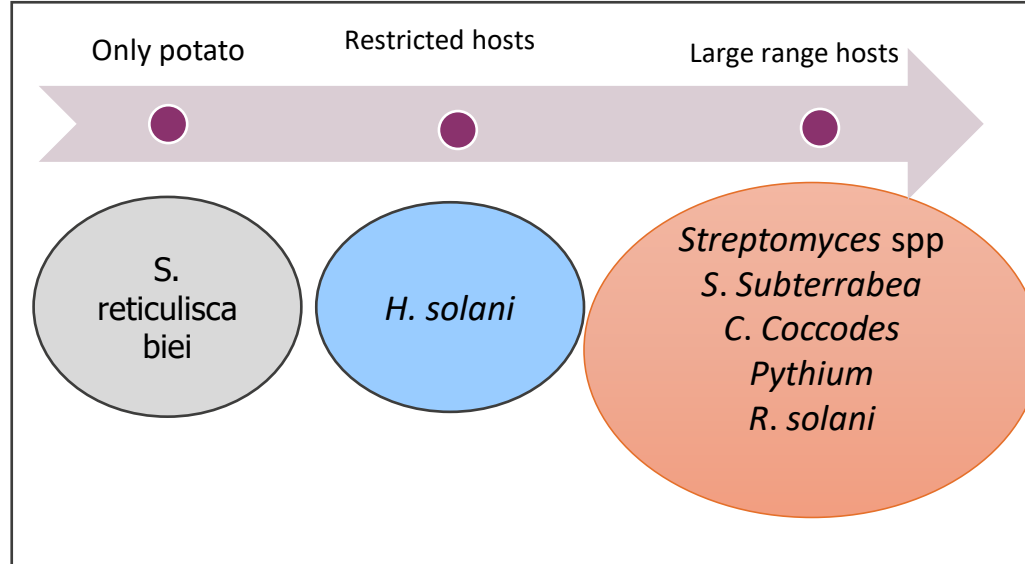
## Pathogen traits

**Survival duration**



# Grouping the pathogens according to their traits

## Host range trait



# Grouping the pathogens according to their traits

## Penetration way

## Pathogen/host traits

### Direct

*R. solani*  
*C. coccodes*  
*H. solani*

### Lenticels

*S. subterranea*  
*S. scabies*  
*S. reticuliscabiei*

### Wounds

*P. ultimum*



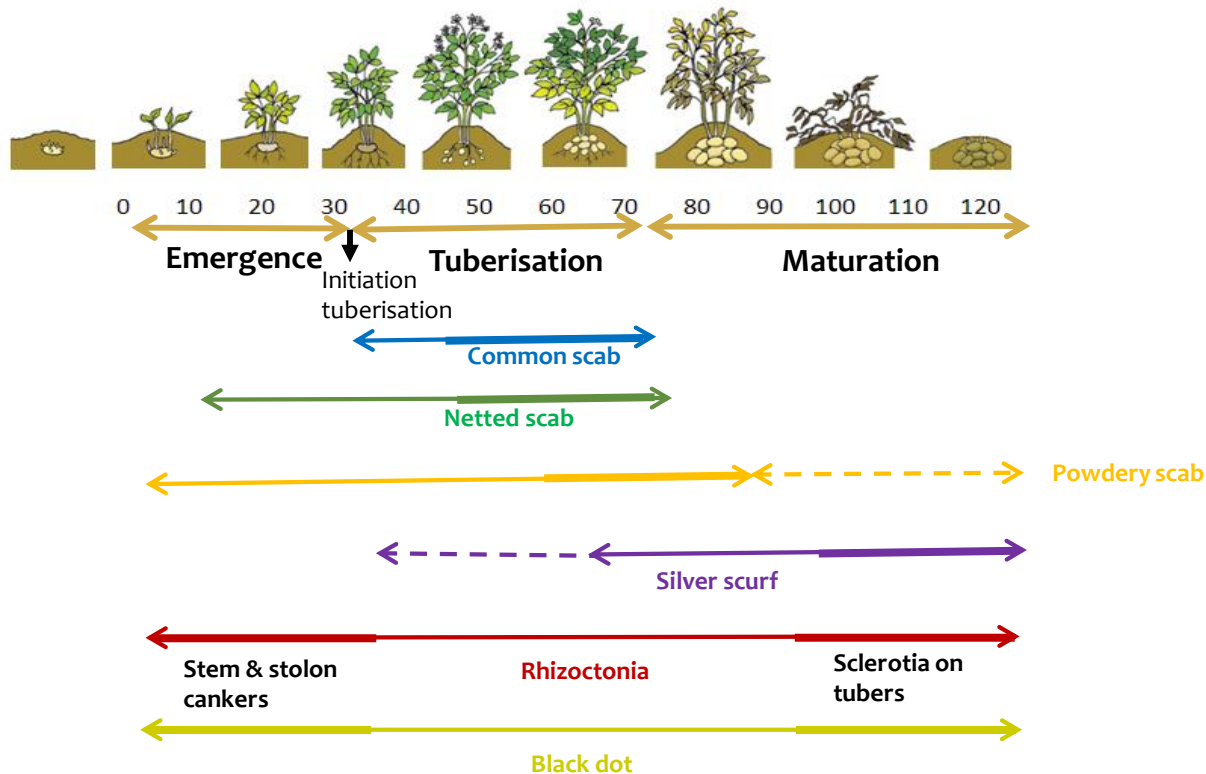


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## Grouping the pathogens according to their traits

### host trait

## Receptivity of potato plant at different stage of its development



### Disease development in storage

#### No development in storage

*Rhizoctonia solani*

*Streptomyces scabies*

*Streptomyces reticuliscabiei*

#### Development in storage

*Colletotrichum coccodes*

*Helminthosporium solani*

*Pythium ultimum*

*Spongospora subterranea*

## General approach

I. Survey of existing knowledge for each disease  
( pathogen life cycle and available control methods)  
Constitution of an extensive data bases

II. Gathering diseases into groups according to their biological traits

**III. Identification of common control methods**

IV. Setting up a pluri-specific control strategies

## III. Building up synthetic tables: irrigation

	<i>C. coccodes</i> Black dot	<i>R. solani</i> Black scurf	<i>H. Solani</i> Silver scurf	<i>S. scabies</i> Common scab	<i>S. reticuliscabiei</i> Netted scab	<i>S. subterranea</i> Powdery scab	<i>P. lutimum</i> Leak
<b>Early irrigation</b> ( from emergence to 4- 6 weeks after tuber initiation initiation)	-	+	+	+	-	-	na
<b>Late irrigation</b> (during tuber maturation)	0	(-)	+	+	-	(-)	na
<b>Irrigation durant tout le cycle de culture</b>	-	na	+	+	-	-	na

+ : positive effect

0 : neutral effect

- : negative effect

na : non-available data

## III. Building up synthetic tables: host range

	Colletotrichu m coccodes	Rhizoctonia solani	Helminthosp orium solani	Streptomyces scabies	Streptomyces reticuliscabi	Spongospora subterranea	Pythium ultimum
Solanaceae Other than potato	+	+	+	-	-	+	-
Poaseae (Grasses)	-	+	-	+	-	+	+
Fabiaceae (legumes)	-	+	-	+	-	-	+
Brassica (Cruciferous)	+	+	-	+	-	+	+
Asteraceae	+	+	-	+	-	-	+
chenopodiaceaes	+	+	-	+	-	-	+
Apiaceae	-	+	-	+	-	-	+

**Légende**

+		Host
-		Non Host

## General approach

I. Survey of existing knowledge for each disease  
( pathogen life cycle and available control methods)  
Constitution of an extensive data bases

II. Gathering diseases into groups according to their biological traits

III. Identification of common control methods

IV. Setting up a multi-pathogen control strategies

## 5. Construction of toolboxes for a multipathogen control

### **Action on initial stock inoculum**

Strategy aiming destruction or reduction of initial inoculum stock

### **Storage Management**

Strategy aiming to avoid multiplication and dissemination of pathogens in stores

### **Avoiding strategy**

Avoid to match the infectious phase of the pathogen with the susceptible period of the plants

### **Attenuation in culture**

Minimizing the damage when the plant and the pathogen meet

## III. Building up 4 toolboxes

### Action on initial inoculum

Strategy aiming des reduction of initial in

### Avoiding str

Avoid to match the phase of the pathog susceptible period c

Control method 1



Control method n

**Tageted trait**

**Targeted diseases**

Action on initial stock inoculum



Equipment and facilities disinfection

*Survival and dissemination*

SC SN SSS CC RH HS P

Sanitary status of the seed  
- Healthy, certified seed, treated

*Survival and dissemination*  
*More efficacy when inoculum is seed borne*

RH HS P

Sanitary status of the soil  
- inoculum detection, soil history

*Survival and dissemination*

CS NS SSS CC RH HS P

Rotation

**Survival duration , saprophytic ability, host range**

*In general for all the pathogens but more efficient for those with :  
high host specificity, weak saprophytic capacity and short  
survival duration*

SN HS SSS CC

Previous crops  
Intercropping crops  
Residues management

**Host range**

*In general for all the pathogens but more adapted to  
those with :  
Predominant soil inoculum , good saprophytic ability  
Non-specific pathogens*

RH CS SSS

Biocontrol agents

CS NS SSS CC RH HS ( P )

**Action on initial stock inoculum**



## Conclusion & perspectives

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*Some examples*

## Our study has two purposes

- ✓ **Formalisation of knowledge** on potato soilborne diseases & Highlighting the literature gaps
  - The tools and documents generated by this work could be evolved by new data
- ✓ **Set up a methodology approach:**
  - \* to gather pathogens according to their traits
  - \* to understand the mode of action of the control method
  - \* to set up control strategies based on methods combination targeting a group of pathogens

## The next steps

### **To design innovative cropping systems minimising the risk of important pathogens :**

- The data bases should be completed by other diseases/pests late blight, black leg, wireworm, viruses, etc...
- Apply this approach to the conception of alternative strategies in concrete potato production systems
- Experiment these strategies to confirm their performances against pathogens and to create references on combined control methods
- Contribution of modelisation to simulate the performance for a large control strategies and to select only some to be experimented



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## An integrative approach to control potato soil borne diseases

Celia Cholez & Karima Bouchek-Mechiche



# Thank you for your attention!

# Impact of tillage on soil biological quality and potato diseases in an agroecological potato production system

Puech C., Kröner A., Pasco C., Beduneau F., Maestrali M., Hervet M., Andrivon D., Bouček-Mechiche K.





## Presentation outline

- 1 **Introduction**
  - Study context & objectives
- 2 **Methodology**
  - Experimental site and design
  - Crop protocol/Climatic conditions
  - Measurements and observations
- 3 **Results**
  - Soil biological quality
  - Potato diseases
  - Yield
- 4 **Take-Home**
  - Results summary
  - Conclusions
  - Perspectives





# 1 - Introduction

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*Study context & objectives*



## Life on earth (incl. potato production) depends on healthy/living soils

**Soil biodiversity** : a variety of organisms spending a part or their entire life in the soil.



earthworms  
carabid beetles



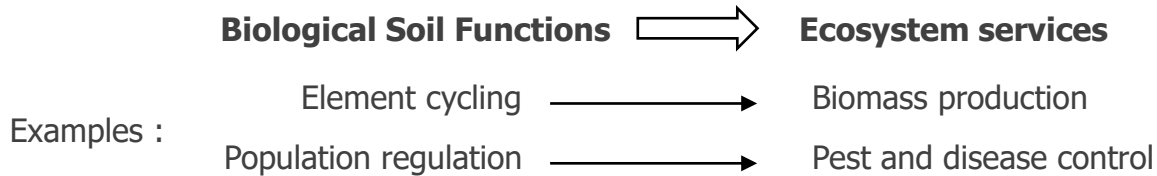
spiders  
springtails




nematodes



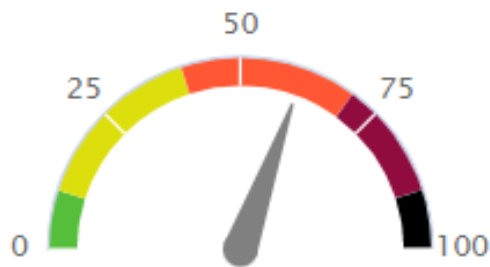
bacteria  
fungi



 **Soil threats** (i.e. loss of soil biodiversity) disrupt soil functions for biomass production and disease/pest control !

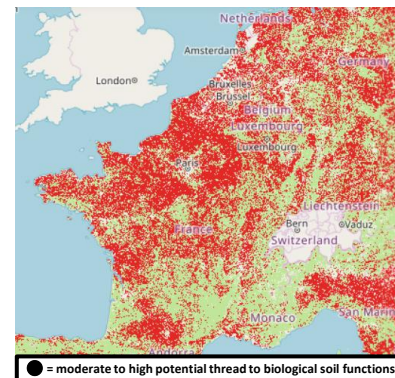
**For further reading** : Bunemann, E. K. et al. (2018). Soil quality - A critical review. Soil Biology & Biochemistry, 120, 105-125.

## Soil degradation in the EU



### 61 % of land

is likely to be affected by one or more soil degradation processes.



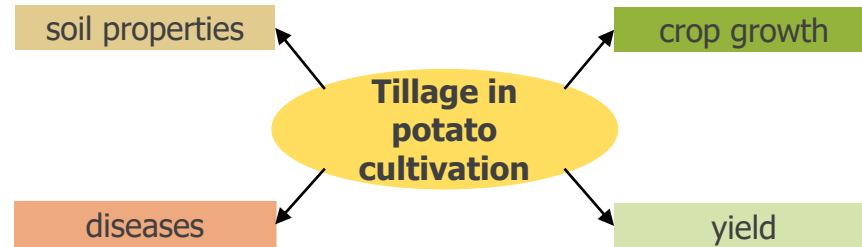
### Loss of soil biodiversity

is a major soil degradation process, overlapping with low **soil carbon stock** and **water erosion**.

Source : EU Soil Health Dashboard (11/05/2023) at <https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/esdacviewer/euso-dashboard/>

## Tillage impact on potato production and soil

Tillage practices (e.g. moldboard plowing, chisel plowing, minimum tillage) affect potato production in multiple ways<sup>1</sup> :



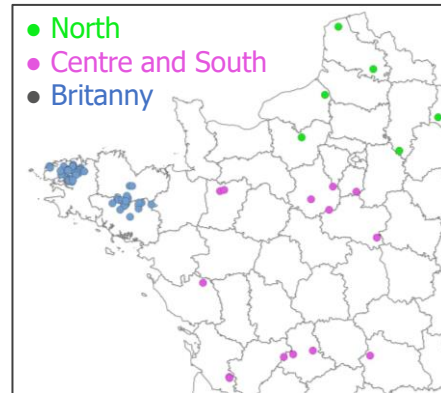
→ **Purposeful tillage is a strong lever for sustained potato production.**

<sup>1</sup> Djaman, K. et al. (2022). Tillage Practices in Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) Production : A Review. American Journal of Potato Research, 99(1), 1-12.

## Tillage practices of potato growers in France

A survey<sup>1</sup> among 75 seed potato growers in France revealed :

**Intensive tillage (i.e. ploughing, sieving of soil) is the dominant practice<sup>1</sup>**



However, **reduced tillage** is expected to be beneficial for soil health (e.g. soil biodiversity<sup>2</sup>).

<sup>1</sup> Survey realised in 2020-2021 by the French Federation of Seed Potato Growers (FN3PT/inov3PT)

<sup>2</sup> Betancur-Corredor, B. et al. (2022). Reducing tillage intensity benefits the soil micro- and mesofauna in a global meta-analysis. *European Journal of Soil Science*, 73(6).

## Objectives of this work

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1. To set up a long-term, large-scale experiment in an agroecological potato production system to **study the effects of ploughless tillage** on:



- soil biological quality (increased biological fertility expected)
- soilborne diseases (better biological regulation expected)
- potato yield (similar or better yield expected)

2. To **assess different indicators** in farming conditions for monitoring soil biodiversity in order to select the useful ones.

3. To acquire references and disseminate data to producers in order to **encourage tillage practice change**.



## 2 - Methodology

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*Experimental site and design*

*Crop protocol*

*Measurements and observations*

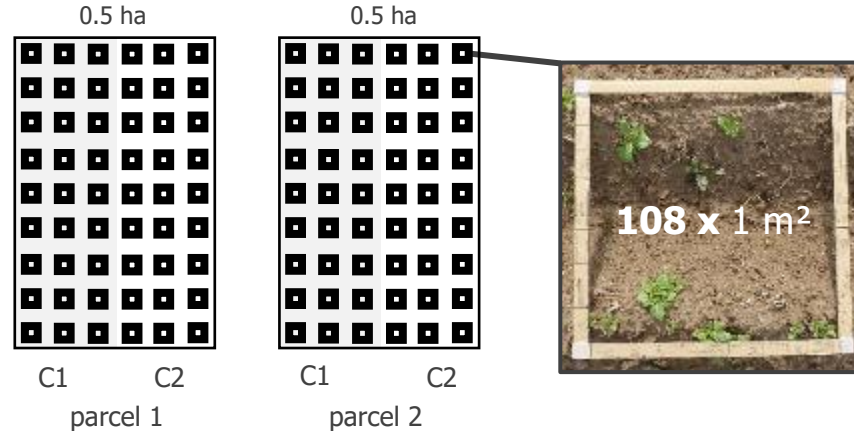
*Climatic conditions*

## Experimental site



- Agroecological experimental site of the INRAE in Brittany (3 ha, France, Le Rheu), managed since 2018 with and without ploughing. Crop rotation includes **potato**, maize, wheat and overwinter cover crops.
- Project period : 2021 – 2024 (at least).

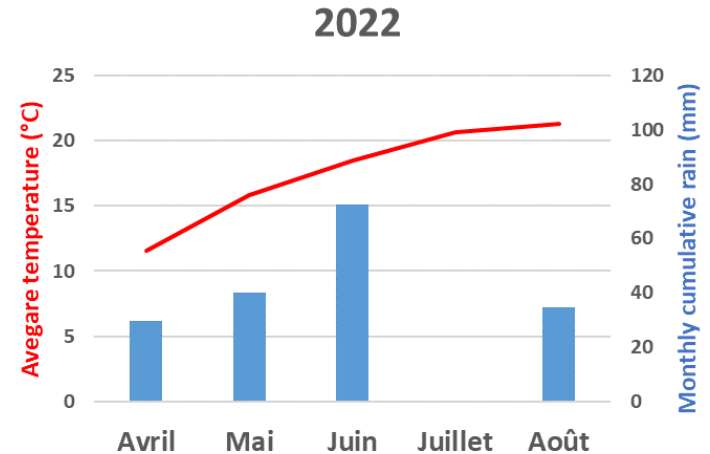
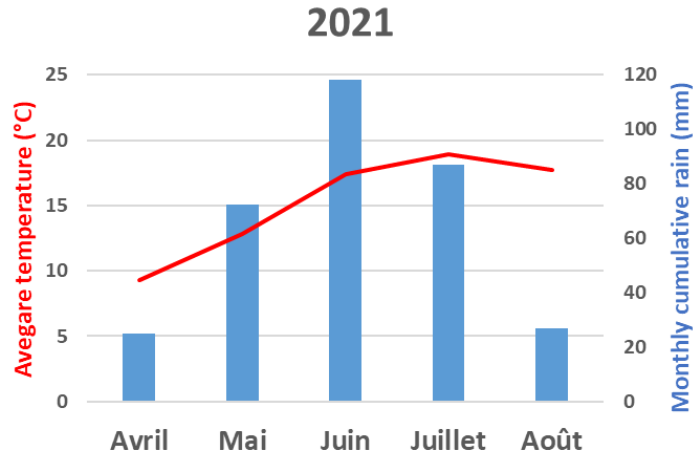
## Experimental design



- Two nearby parcels (2 x 0.5 ha, ploughed or not ploughed)
- Two potato cultivars (encoded as C1 and C2), to discern potential cultivar specific behaviors
- Each of both parcels contains 54 defined plots (1 m<sup>2</sup>) for sampling and observation.



## Contrasting climatic conditions



- In contrast to 2021, the climate was markedly hot and dry in 2022.

## Crop management

Period	Operation	
October – Mars	Overwinter cover crop	✓
Mars	Fertilization (organic and mineral)	✓
Mars – Avil	Basic tillage (cultivator and rotary tiller)	✓
	<b>Ploughing</b>	<b>optional</b>
Avril – Mai	Planting	✓
Mai	Weed control (tine harrow, hilling, manual removing of curly dock)	✓
Late June	Crop protection (potato beetle, SUCCESS 4 in case of need)	✓
Late July	Mechanical haulm killing	✓
Late August	Harvest	✓



## Measurements and observations (cf. posters)

### soil quality



earthworms  
nematodes  
spiders &  
ground beetles  
decomposition of  
organic matter  
soil stability  
lab analyses

### potato health

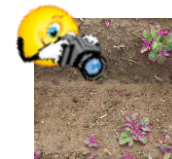


on tubers

on stem/leaves

common scab x  
silver scurf x  
black dot x  
black surf x  
virus diseases  
early blight  
black leg  
Colorado potato beetle  
wireworms x

### Development and yield



gross yield  
tuber diameter  
soil coverage  
canopy height  
senescence





## 3 - Results

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*Soil biological quality*

*Potato diseases*

*Yield*

## Measurements and observations

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### soil quality



earthworms  
nematodes  
spiders &  
ground beetles  
decomposition of  
organic matter  
soil stability  
lab analyses

### potato tuber health



common scab  
silver scurf  
black dot  
black scurf

### potato yield

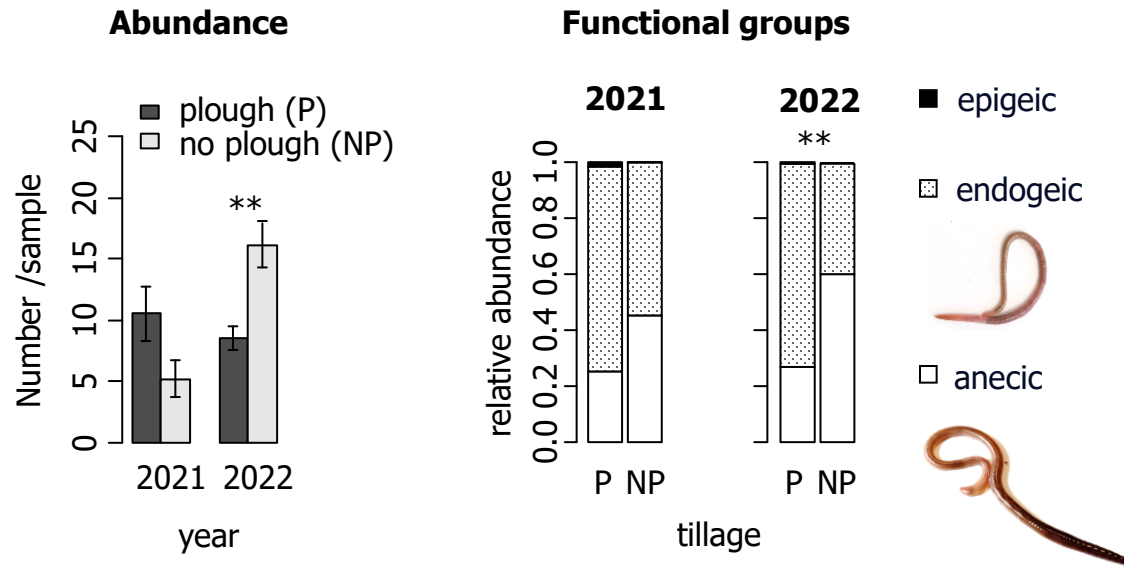


gross yield

## Earthworms

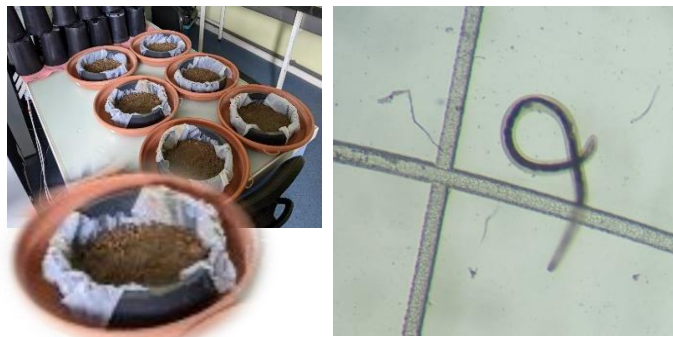


In late February, earthworms are extracted from soil samples and attributed to functionals groups.



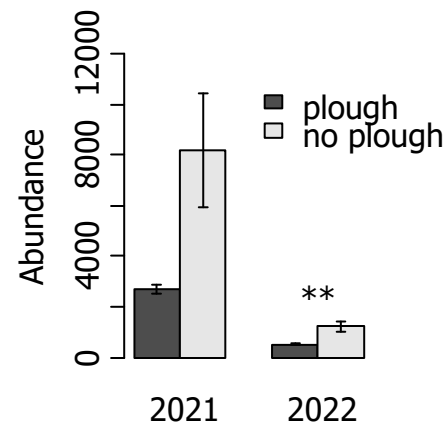
Results were year specific, with significant effects of ploughless tillage in 2022 : total abundance was increased, with a higher proportion of anecic earthworms.

## Nematodes



In early July, nematodes were separated from soil samples by the Oostenbrink method. Abundance was determined by stereo microscopical counting.

Nematodes in a 300g soil sample



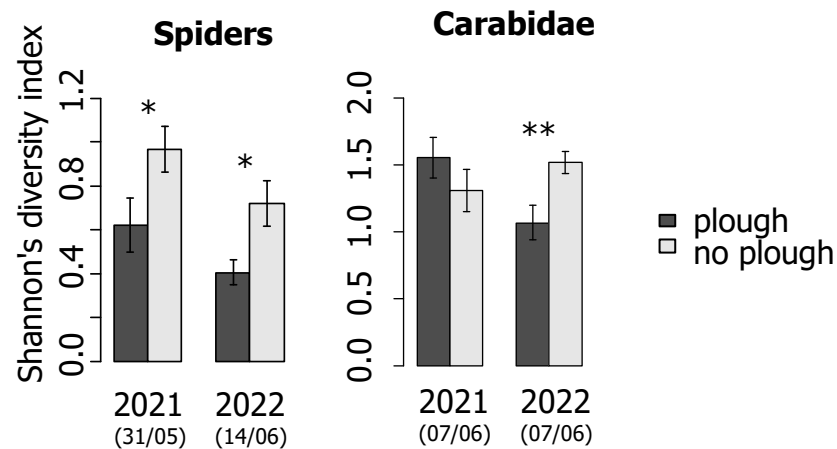
Abundance was increased in no plough.  
Heigh effect of the year on global abundance.



## Barber pitfall trap



A Barber ground trap to catch arthropods crawling on the soil surface.

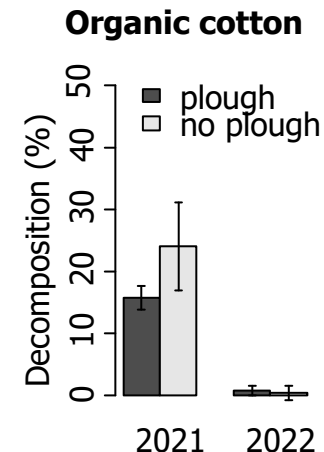
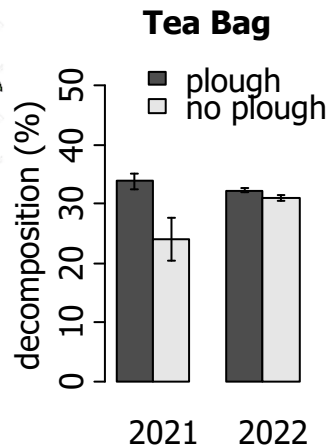


Diversity of **spiders** was the highest in the ploughless cultivated plot.  
Diversity of **ground beetles** was not consistently increased in ploughless cultivated plot.

N.B. : results shown have been selected for significance from a larger set of experimental data.

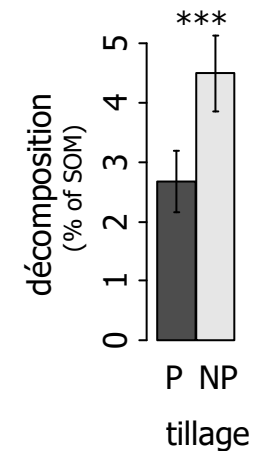
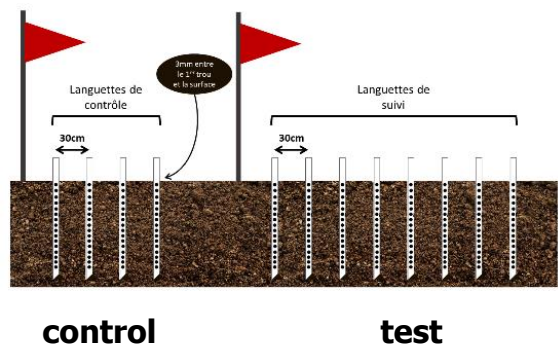
## Decomposition of organic matter (field tests)

During July/August (7 weeks), buried tea bags and underpants were exposed to decomposition by soil detritivores, and the state of decomposition was calculated.



Neither test did clearly show-up potential differences in biological soil activity between tillage practices. Organic cotton did barely decompose in 2022, but Tea Bag results were rather similar in both years.

## Decomposition of organic matter (Bait Lamina, 2022)

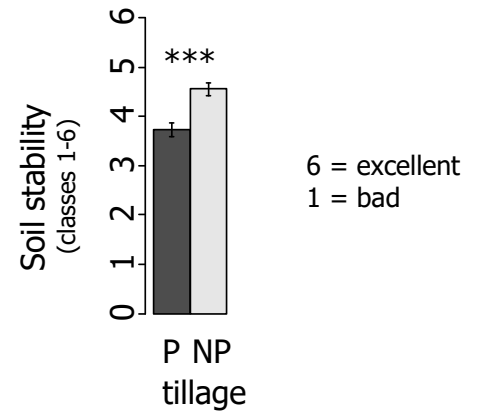


Decomposition rate of organic matter was significantly increased in the unploughed plot.

## Soil structural stability (2022)



**Soil Stability Test Kit**  
([www.forestry-suppliers.com](http://www.forestry-suppliers.com))

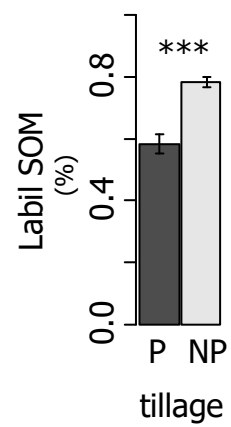


Soil stability even better without ploughing.

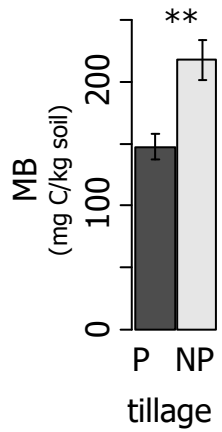
## Biological laboratory soil analysis (2022)



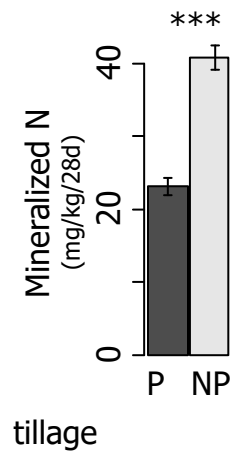
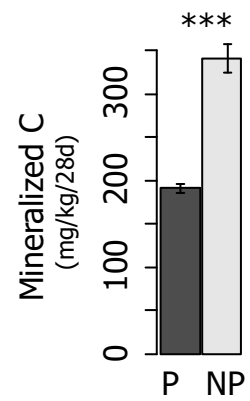
Labile soil organic matter (SOM)



Microbial Biomass (MB)



Mineralization speed  
carbon (C)      nitrogen (N)



Analyses by Celesta lab

**No plough increases :**

- Labile soil organic matter
- Microbial biomass
- Mineralization speed

## Measurements and observations

### soil quality



earthworms  
nematodes  
spiders &  
ground beetles  
decomposition of  
organic matter  
soil stability  
lab analyses

### potato tuber health



common scab  
silver scurf  
black dot  
black scurf

### potato yield

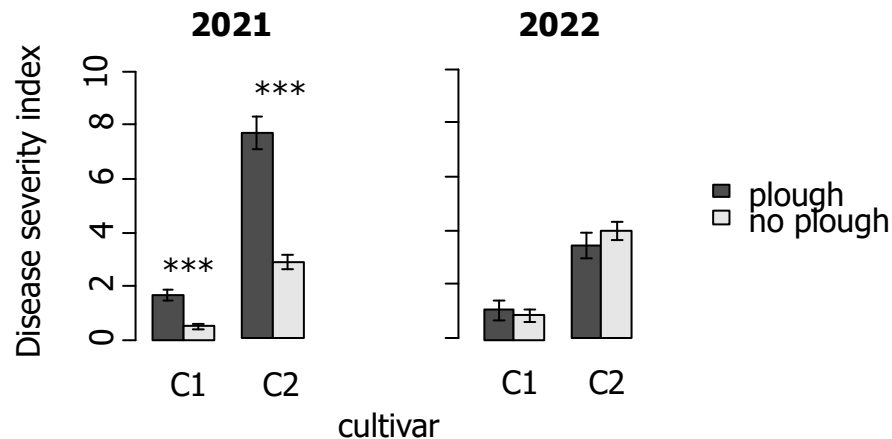


gross yield

## Black scurf severity



Potato tubers after harvest covered by black sclerotia.



Disease severity on seed tubers:	0.4	1.8	0.7	3.9

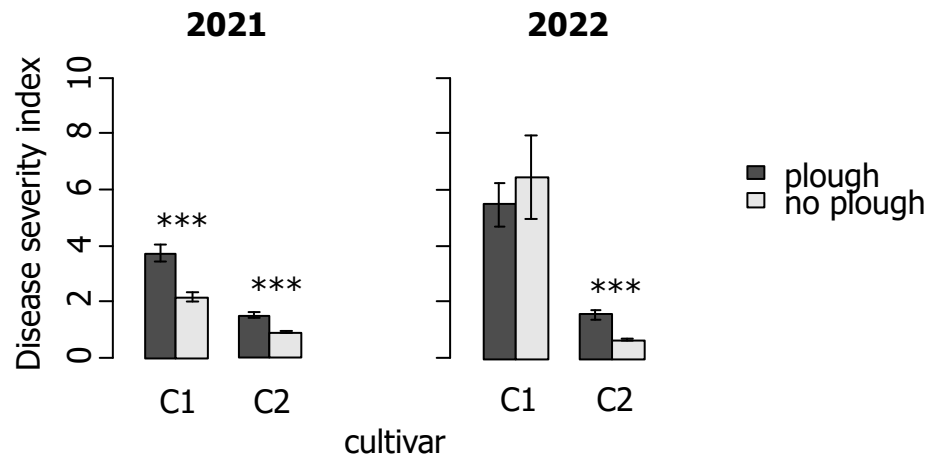
Ploughless cultivation clearly reduced severity of black scurf on harvested tubers, but only in 2021. The severity of the disease varied greatly and in accordance with the initial inoculum on seed tubers.\*

\* In 2022, the absence of *Rhizoctonia solani* in the soil before planting has been confirmed by qPCR

## Common scab severity



Potato tubers after harvest covered with scabby lesions.



Disease severity on seed tubers : 1.5 5.6 0.8 0.0

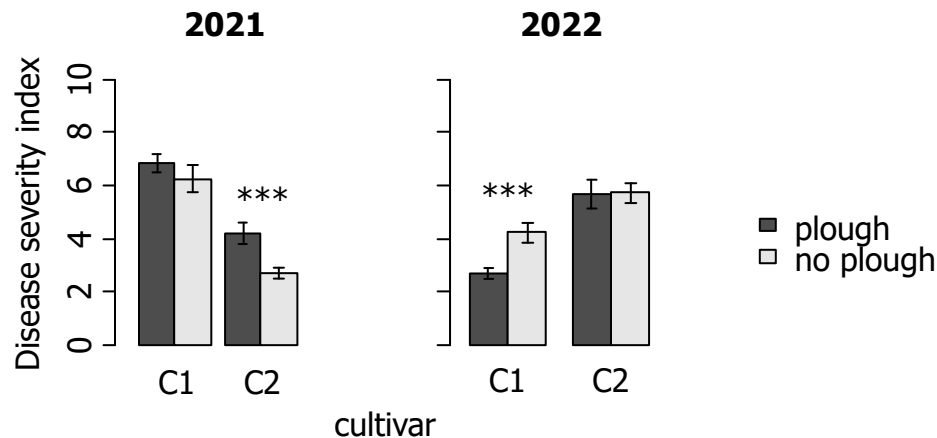
Ploughless cultivation reduced severity of common scab.



## Silver scurf severity



Potato tubers after storage covered with silvery patches.



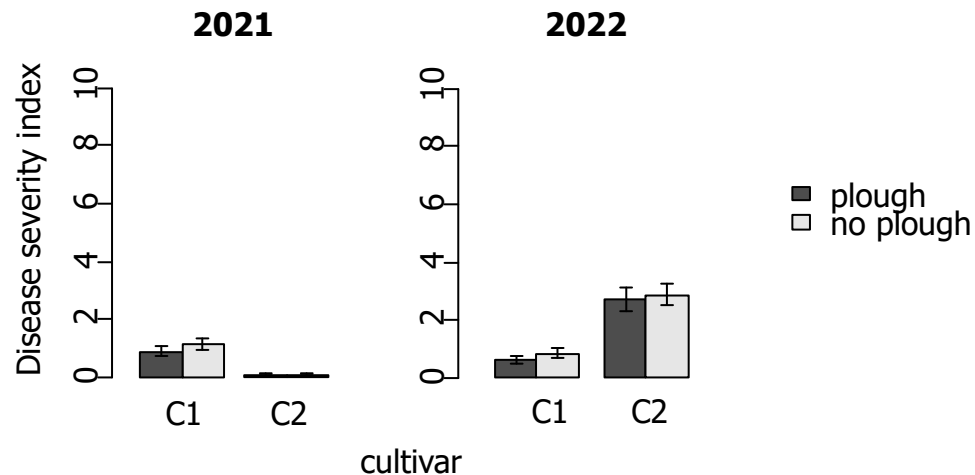
Disease severity on seed tubers	17.8	2.5	6.3	5.6
---------------------------------	------	-----	-----	-----

The effect of ploughless cultivation on silver scurf severity was quite inconsistent.

## Black dot severity



Potato tubers after storage covered with small black, dot-like structures (sclerotia)



Disease severity on seed tubers	not assessed	2.7	1.3
---------------------------------	--------------	-----	-----

Ploughless cultivation had no effect of black dot severity.

## Measurements and observations

### soil quality



earthworms  
nematodes  
spiders &  
ground beetles  
decomposition of  
organic matter  
soil stability  
lab analyses

### potato tuber health



common scab  
silver scurf  
black dot  
black scurf

### potato yield

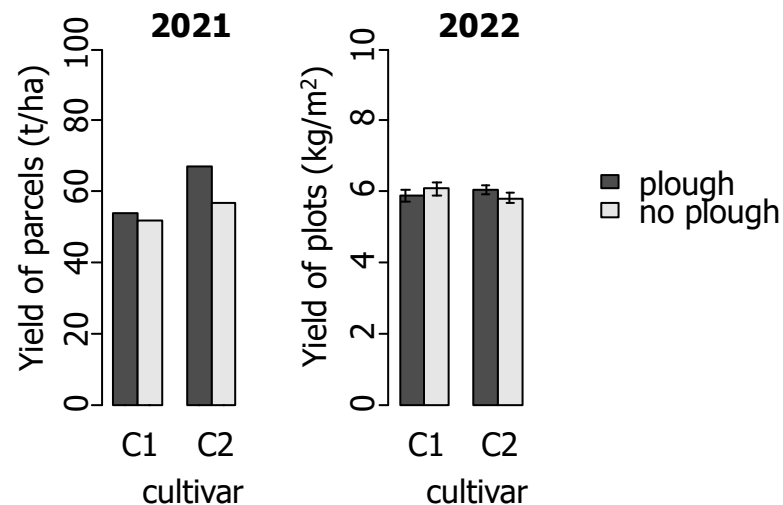


gross yield

## Gross yield



In late August, gross yield was assessed by mechanized harvest of the entire plots (2021, as pictured above) or by manual harvest of sampling plots (2022).



Yield was similar among treatments, and on a par with potato producers.



## 4 – Take Home

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*Results summary*

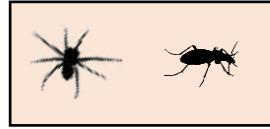
*Conclusions*

*Perspectives*

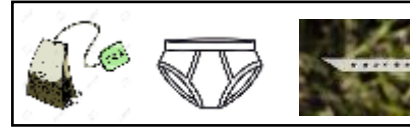
## Impact of ploughless tillage : soil biological fertility



**Worms Nematodes**  
(abundance)



**Spiders Beetles**  
(diversity)



**Decomposition of SOM**  
(activity)



**Soil stability**



**Lab analysis**

Year	Worms Nematodes (abundance)	Spiders Beetles (diversity)	Decomposition of SOM (activity)	Soil stability	Lab analysis
2022	●	●	○	○	●
2021	○	●	○	○	○

● positive    ● negative    ○ no effect

Ploughless tillage was mostly beneficial in terms of abundance and diversity.  
Indicators for biological activity were less conclusive and need further investigation.

## Impact of ploughless tillage : potato tuber health

disease severity	
<span style="color: green;">●</span>	decrease
<span style="color: red;">●</span>	increase
<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	no effect



	Black scurf		Common scab		Silver scurf		Black dot	
	C1	C2	C1	C2	C1	C2	C1	C2
2022	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>
2021	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>

Ploughless tillage was mostly beneficial or at least neutral, in regard to potato tuber health. It was less beneficial in 2022 than in 2021 and to some extent cultivar-specific.

## Conclusions

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**So did ploughless tillage live up (so far) to our expectations ?**



**Increased soil biological quality.**



**Similar yield**



**Better biological regulation of soilborne diseases, at least in some instances.**



## Perspectives

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- Results from 2023 (partly acquired) and observations scheduled for 2024 are intended to challenge these conclusions in regard to year specific (climatic) conditions.
- Beyond the focus of this presentation on tillage and its effects on soil biodiversity, additional management levers will be combined and assessed (i.e. choice of potato cultivars).
- On a longer term, we hope to provide references for producers and valuable hints to decision makers on how to future-proof sustained potato production.



## Staff Members & Support



Camille Puech



Alexander Kröner  
(2023)



Marie Hervet



Karima Bouchek-Mechiche



C. Pasco



D. Andrivon

Our special gratitude to J. Pirault, M. Gernigon and his colleagues from the INRAE experimental unit Le Rheu for their field work services. A big thank to our colleagues for their support in monitoring.

## Trainees



Maëlle Maestrali (2021)



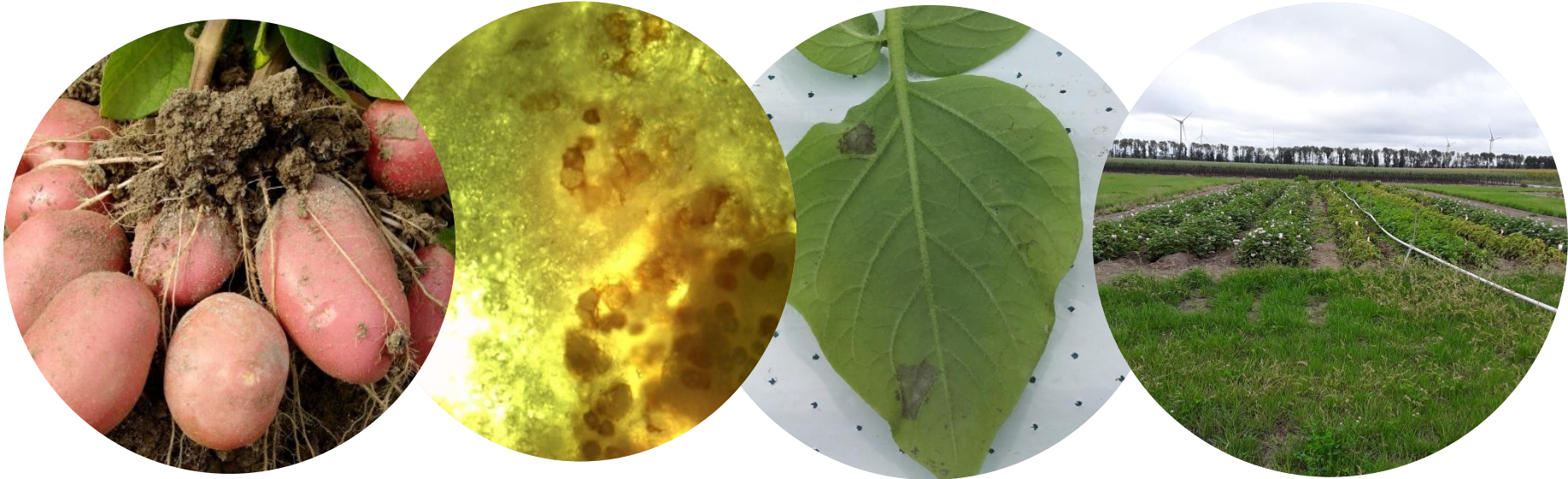
François Beduneau (2022)

# Holland Innovative Potato Building Block 3; Mining for novel disease resistance in the Solanum germplasm

Jack Vossen

EAPR section meeting, pathogens and pests

Arras, September 5<sup>th</sup> 2023



# Holland Innovative Potato (HIP)

## ■ Organisation



Ministerie van Landbouw,  
Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit

**HIP**

Holland Innovative Potato



## ■ Research aims

- Sustainable and circular potato production
  - Reduced pesticide usage
  - Less losses
  - Higher efficiency

# Building block 3: Resistance mining in Solanum species

Work packages:

- 3.1 Microbial diseases (Jack Vossen)
- 3.2 Nematodes (Misghina Goitom Teklu)
- 3.3 Insects (Lotte Caarls)
- 3.4 Nematodes/plant/soil interaction



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BB 3.1							
BB 3.2							
BB 3.3							
BB 3.4							



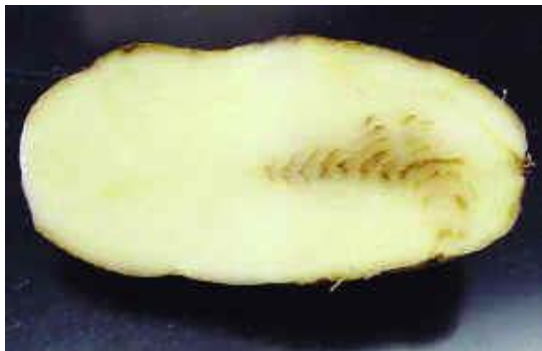
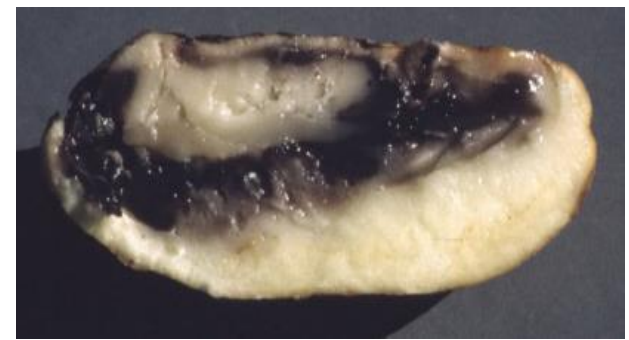
# Wild potato relatives: PBR Solanum collection

- WU&R-PBR: Umbrella, CBSG > Late blight resistance
- Currently: 800 genotypes; 300 accessions; 100 species



# WP 3.1: Microbes

Disease	Pathogens	Assay type
Soft rot, black leg	<i>Dickeya solani</i>	<i>Leaf inoculation</i>
	<i>Pectobacterium brasiliensis</i>	
Dry rot	<i>Fusarium solani</i>	<i>Stem inoculation</i>
	<i>Fusarium sambucinum</i>	
Common scab	<i>Streptomyces scabies</i>	<i>Agroinfiltration</i>
Black scab, stem canker	<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	<i>Agroinfiltration</i>
Viral spraing	PLRV	<i>Agroinfiltration</i>
	PMTV	<i>Agroinfiltration</i>



# Summary of screening results

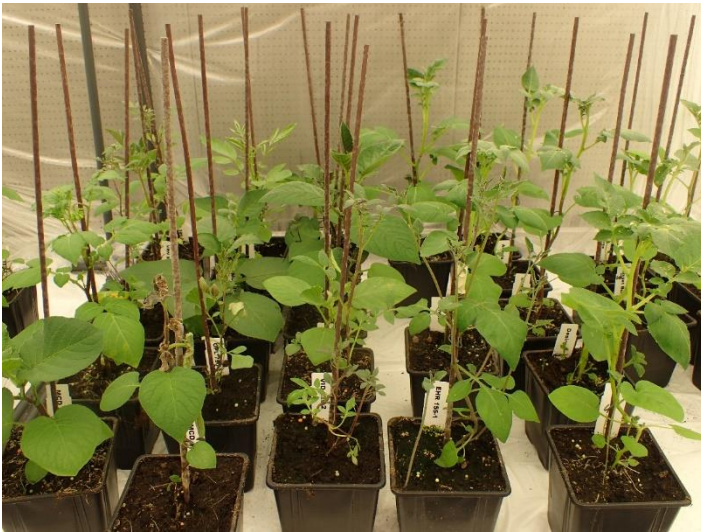
Pathogens	Assay type	Solanum genotypes screened in duplicate	Potentially resistant genotypes found
<i>Dickeya solani</i>	Leaf inoculation	332	6
<i>Pectobacterium brasiliensis</i>		332	18
<i>Fusarium solani</i>	Stem inoculation	322	33
<i>Fusarium sambucinum</i>		322	30
<i>Streptomyces scabies</i>	Agroinfiltration	185	6
<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>	Agroinfiltration	210	0
PLRV	Agroinfiltration	378	29
PMTV	Agroinfiltration	185	0





# Screening for Dry Rot resistance

- In vitro plants > Potting soil > climate cell

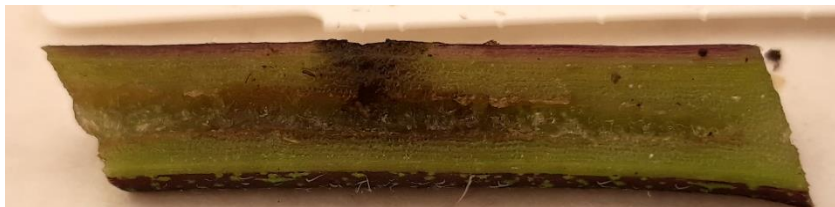
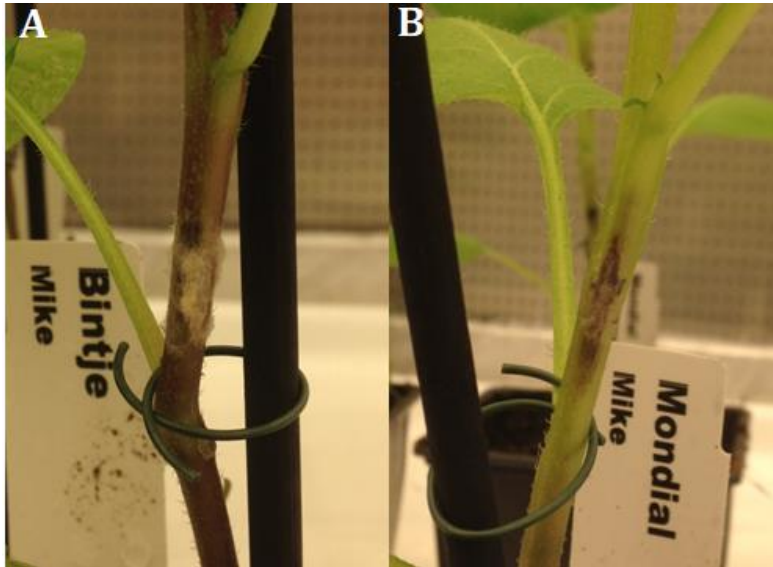


- Stem inoculation (wounding, 2000 macro-conidia per plant)

*Fusarium sambucinum*  
*Fusarium solani*

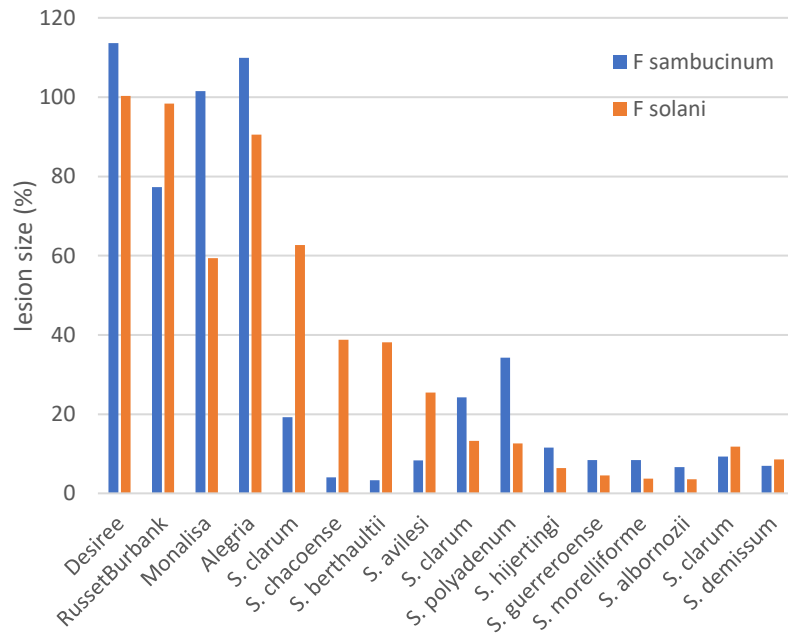


# 8 day post inoculation

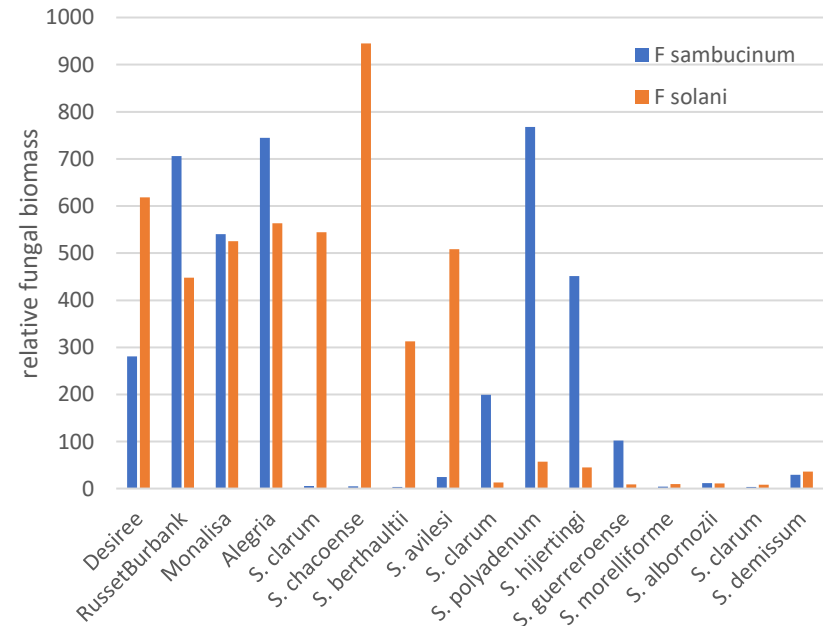


# Selection of Fusarium resistant genotypes

## Lesion size measurement



## Fusarium Q-PCR

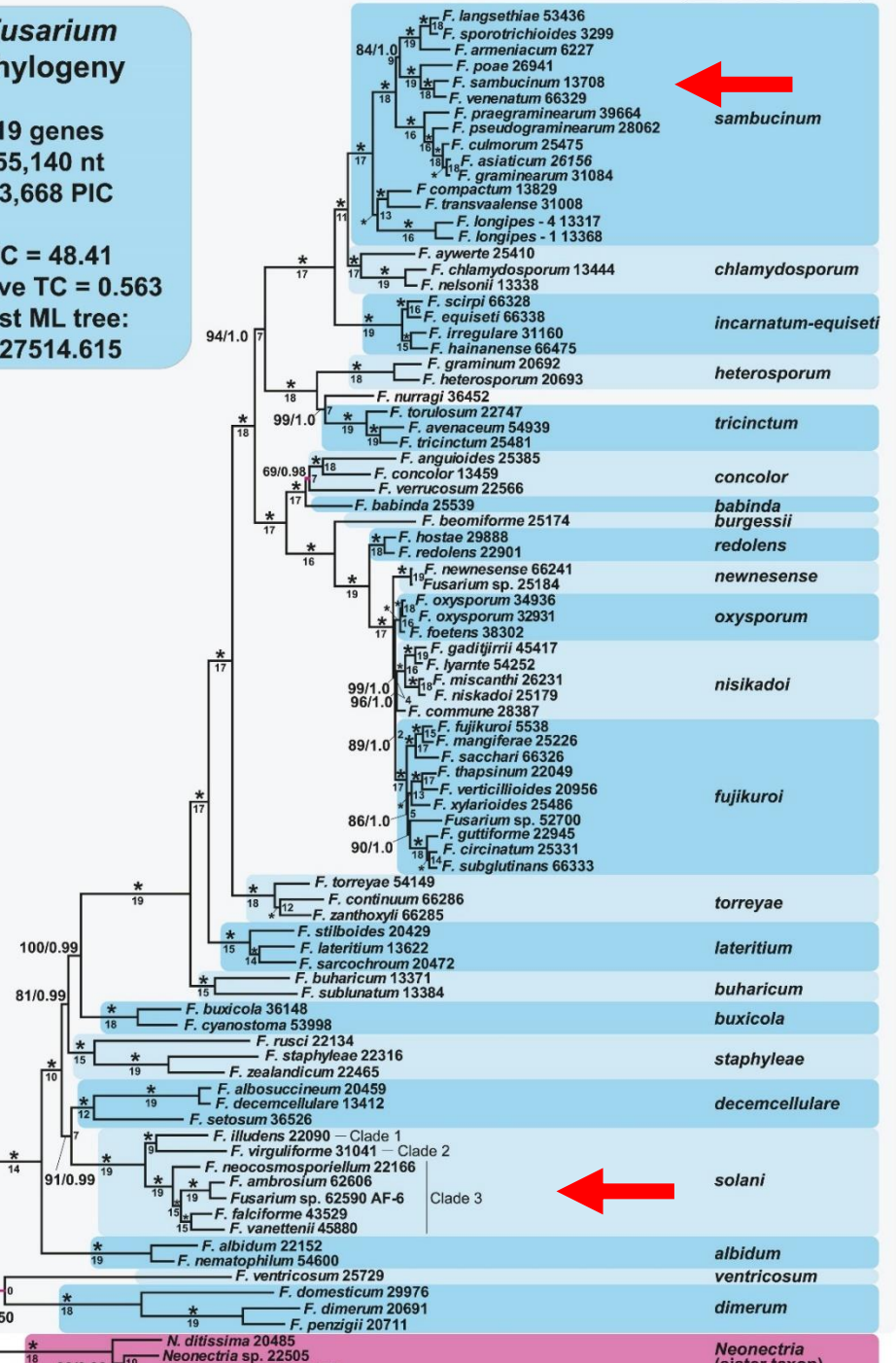


# Diversity in the genus *Fusarium*

## *Fusarium* Phylogeny

19 genes  
55,140 nt  
23,668 PIC

TC = 48.41  
relative TC = 0.563  
best ML tree:  
-927514.615



Source: Geiser et al. (2021)  
Phytopathology 111:1064-1079

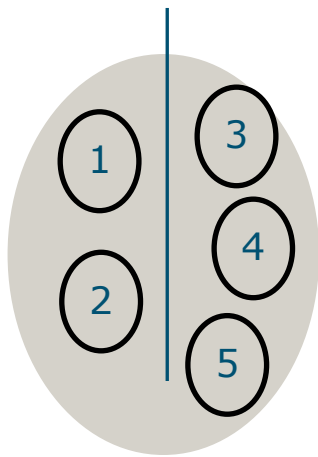


# Screening for effector responses

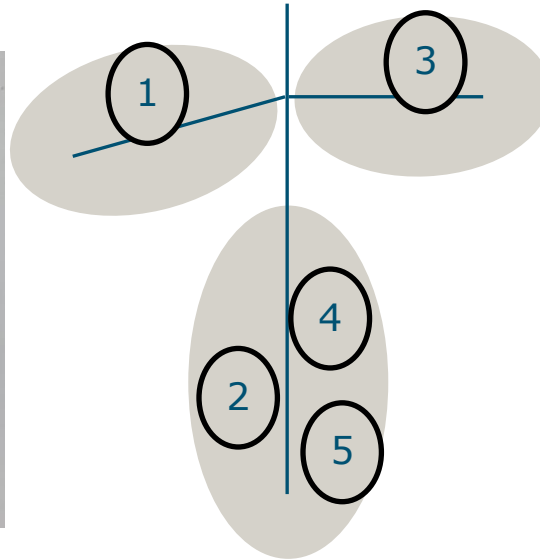


- 150 agrocompetent *Solanum* genotypes
- Five *S. scabies* effectors
- Nine PMTV constructs
- Four *Rhizoctonia solani* effectors
- PLRV viral replicon

# 38 PLRV responsive genotypes found



*S. bukasovi*



*S. bukasovi*

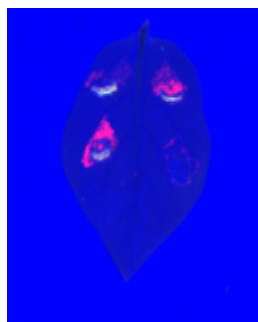
- 1: PLRV
- 2: PLRV
- 3: R3b
- 4: RFP
- 5: R3b+Avr3b

# Response to individual PLRV genes

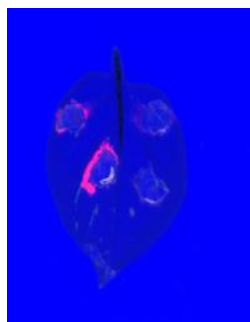


	P0	P1	P2	P3	P3-5	P4	P5
	Sil Sup	serine pro	RdRp	CP	CP-RT	MP	aphid tr.
<i>S. coelestispetalum</i>	70	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>S. iopetalum</i>	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>S. marinasense</i>	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>S. raphanafolium</i>	80	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>S. michoacanum</i>	0	0	0	0	50	0	0
<i>S. schenkii</i>	100	0	0	0	80	0	0
<i>S. sparsipilum</i>	100	0	0	0	60	0	0
<i>S. tarijense</i>	100	0	0	0	40	0	0
<i>S. bukasovi</i>	60	0	0	0	80	0	0

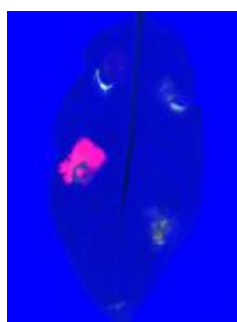
# Segregation of HR response in *S. bukasovi*\*RH89-039-16 population



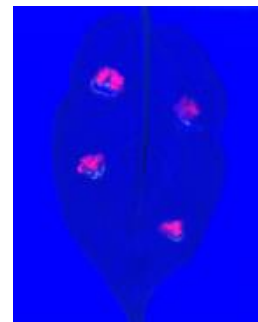
P0



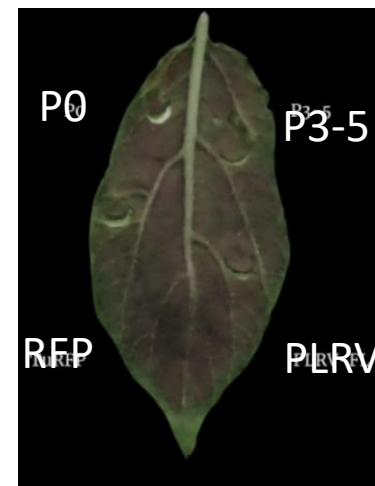
P3-5



P0 + P3-5  
(both)



No response



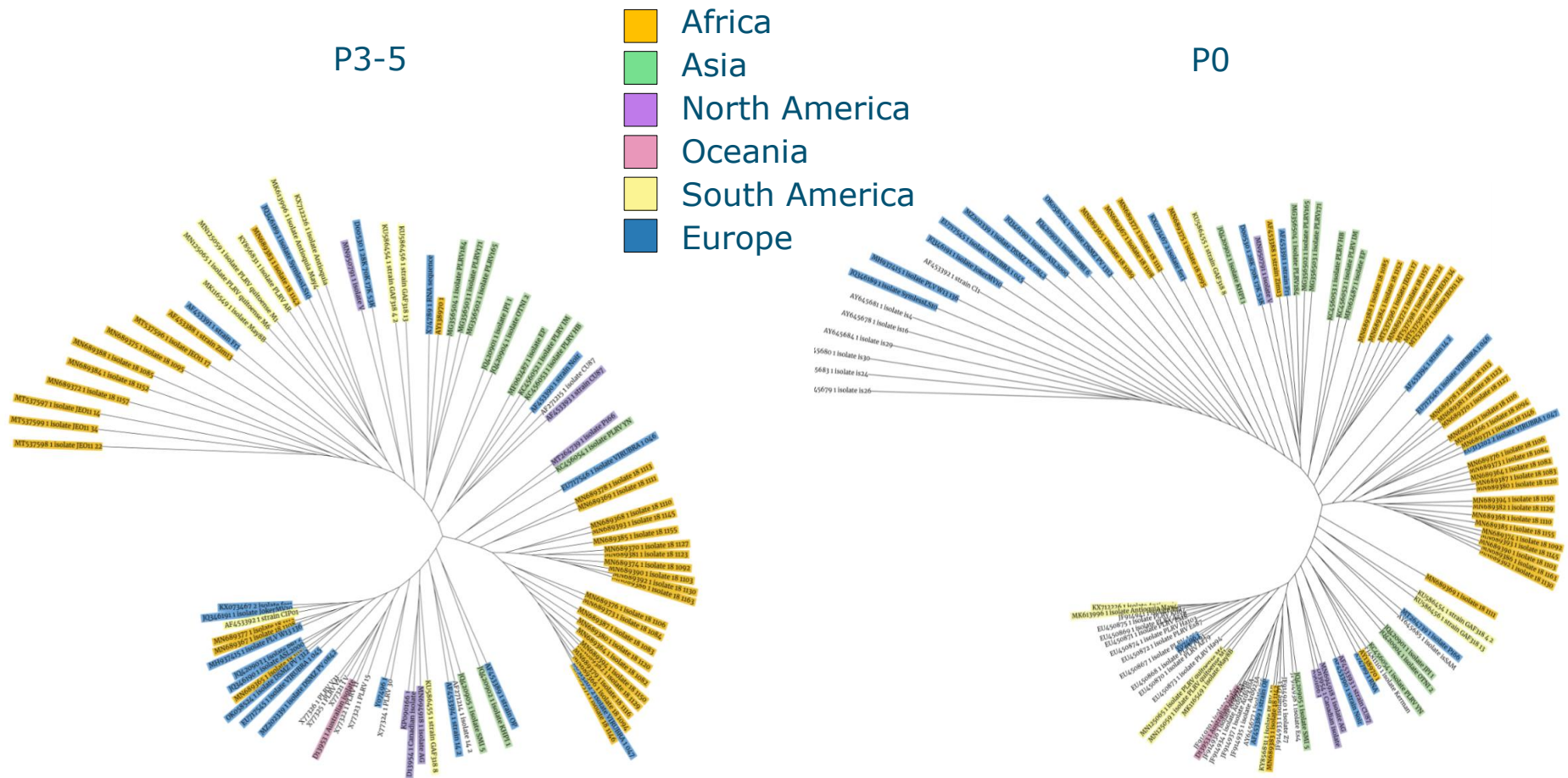
Expected in case of two genes

1:1:1:1=P0:P3-5:both:NR

response	Nr of individuals
P0	12
P3-5	11
both	9
No response	16



# Sequence diversity among PLRV\_P0 and PLRV\_P3-5 proteins



# *Solanum* species response to natural PLRV\_P0 variants



	PO E186	E186K	E186Q	E186T
<i>S. iopetalum</i>	100	100	15	15
<i>S. marinasense</i>	100	100	100	80
<i>S. sparsipilum</i>	100	0	50	100
<i>S. tarijense</i>	100	100	100	75
<i>S. bukasovi</i>	75	75	50	100

# Conclusions and perspectives

- For 6 out of 8 pathogens potential resistance sources are found
- 2 examples about pathogen informed breeding
- Follow up research is needed
  - Validation of resistance in practice (field and tuber assays)
  - Genetic and molecular mechanisms of resistance
  - Explore pathogen informed deployment of resistance in agriculture

# Acknowledgements

**HIP**

Holland Innovative Potato



**PEPSICO**

**Simplot**

**\*Solynta**  
hybrid potato breeding

**MEIJER**  
POTATO



Ministerie van Landbouw,  
Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit



- Isolde Bertram
- Marjan Bergervoet
- Hanneke van der Schoot
- Corne Vermeer
- Loeke van der Linden
- Luuk Veenendaal
- Britt Karsenberg
- Pascalle Pronk
- Richard Visser
  
- Theo van der Lee
- Sander Grapendaal
- Jan van der Wolf



# From soil biological fertility to potato health

How to combine agroecological farming practices in a field experiment?

Pasco C.<sup>2</sup>, Bouчек K.<sup>1</sup>, Kröner A.<sup>1</sup>, Beduneau F.<sup>1</sup>, Maestrali M.<sup>1</sup>, Pirault J.<sup>3</sup>, Andrivon D.<sup>2</sup>, Puech C.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> FN3PT/innov3PT ; <sup>2</sup> INRAE UMR IGEPP ; <sup>3</sup> INRAE UE La Motte



## Study context

• 2018: 2 cropping systems are implemented in Brittany (France), based on 2 different tillage practices

**Conventional tillage**  
(annual ploughing)

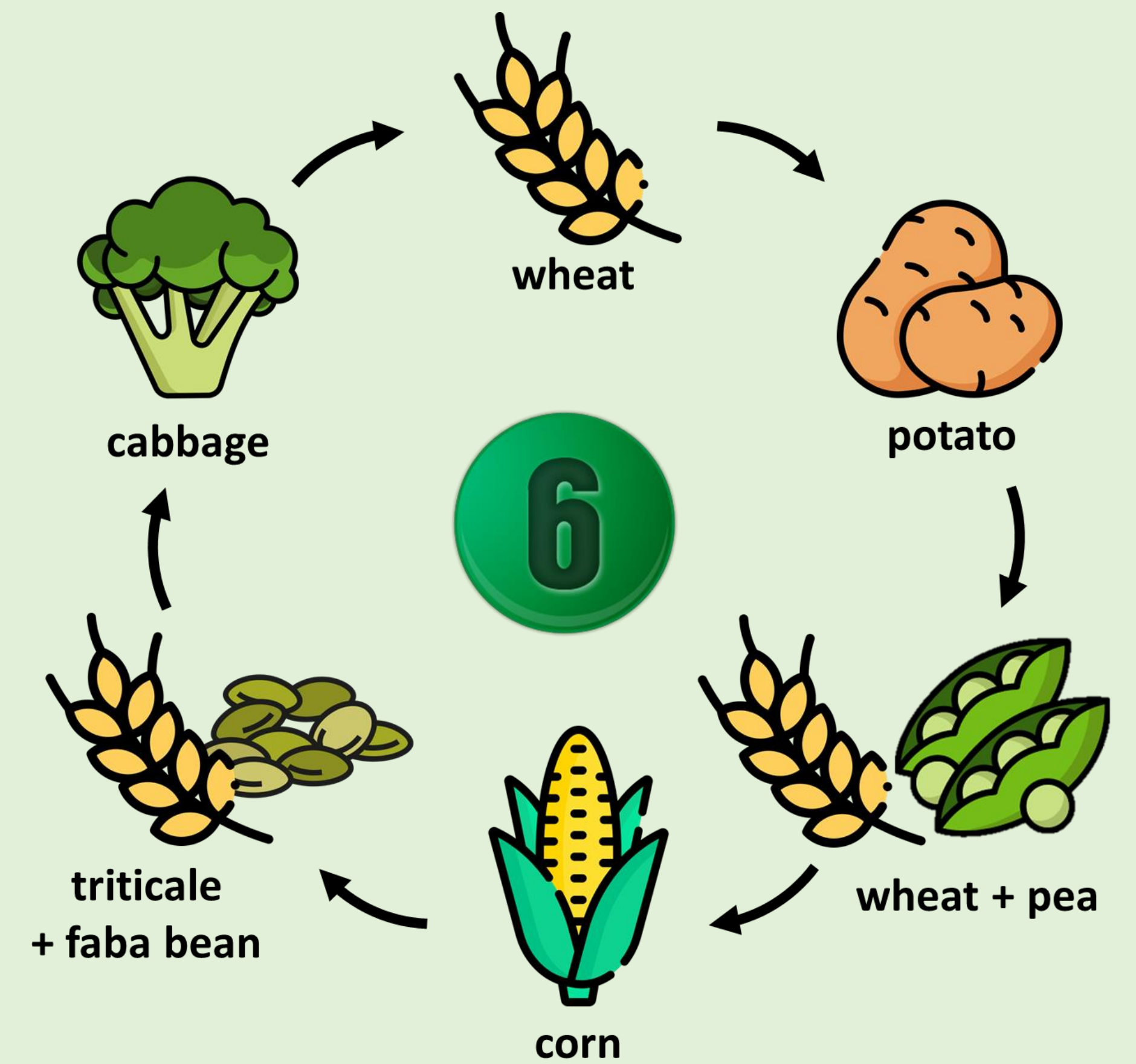


**Alternative tillage**  
(no ploughing)

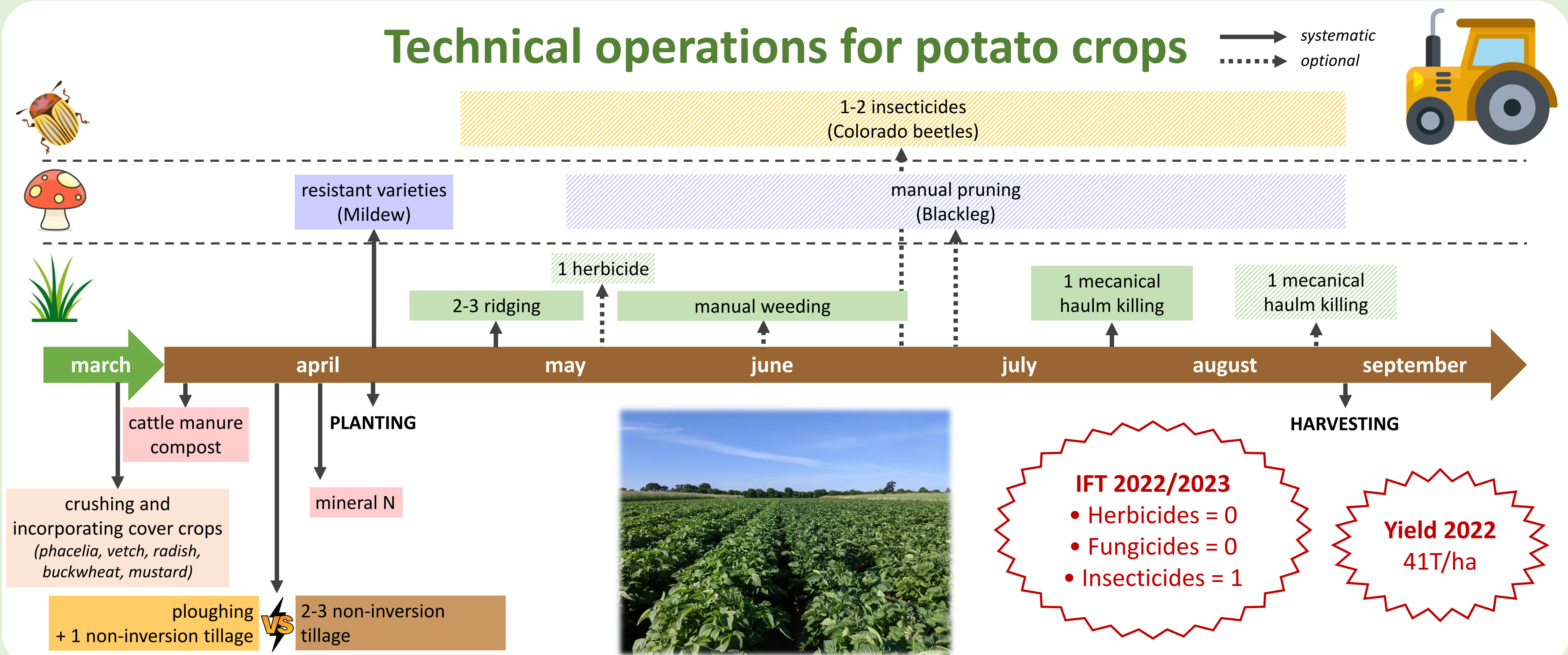
- 6 years crop rotation
- Very low amount of pesticides (only used as a last resort)
- Similar to farming production system (study field = 3ha)

## Goal of this long-term experiment

To study the effect of tillage system on soil biological fertility and potato health



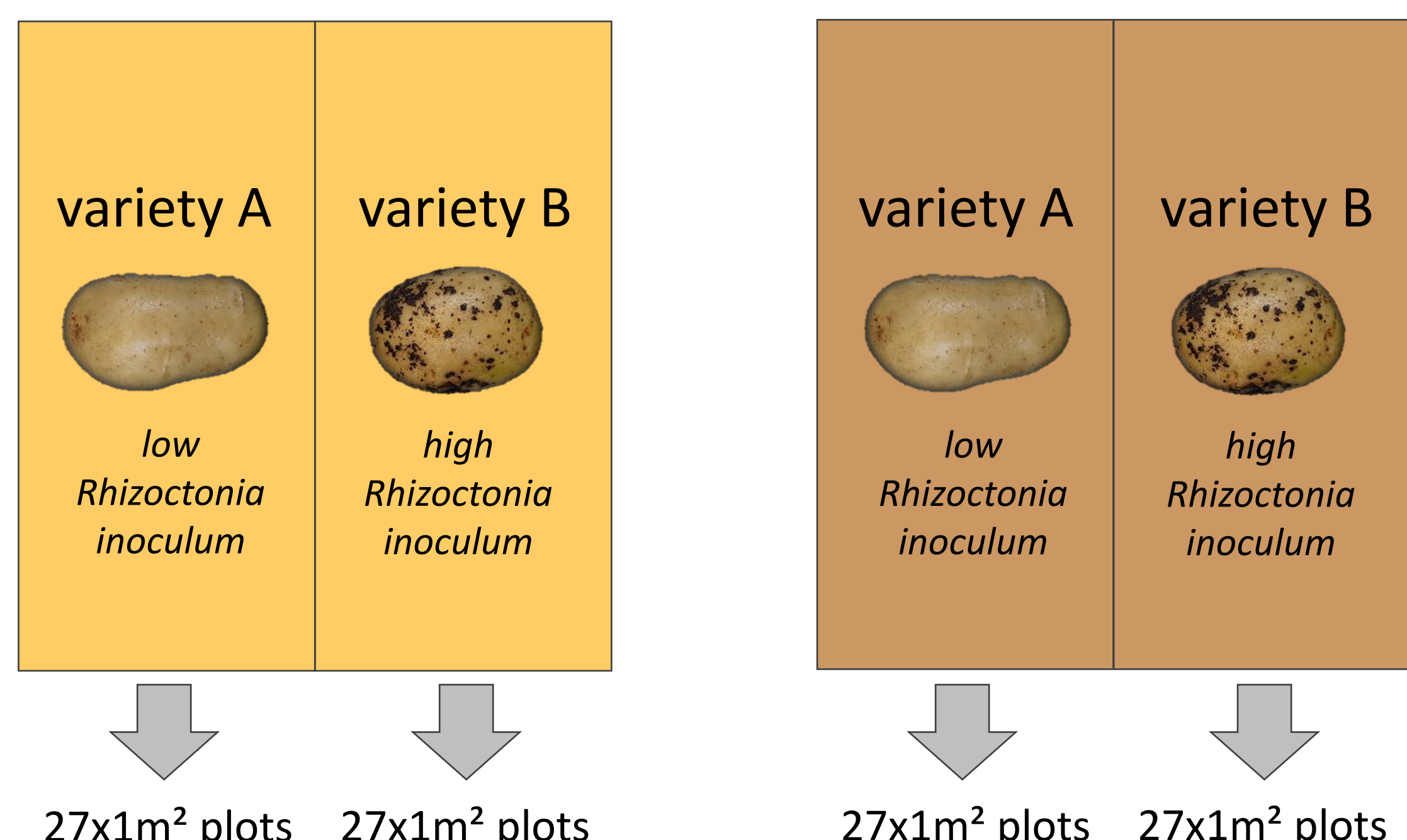
## Technical operations for potato crops



## Experiment design 2022-2023-2024

Field 1: annual ploughing (0,5ha)

Field 2 : no ploughing (0,5ha)



### Incidence and the severity of pests and diseases:

- Weekly scoring of pests and airborne diseases : colorado beetles, aphids, wireworms, late blight, blackleg, viruses, early blight, black scurf.
- At harvest, scoring of soilborne diseases and pests : common scab, black scurf, drycore, black dot, silver scurf and wireworms.

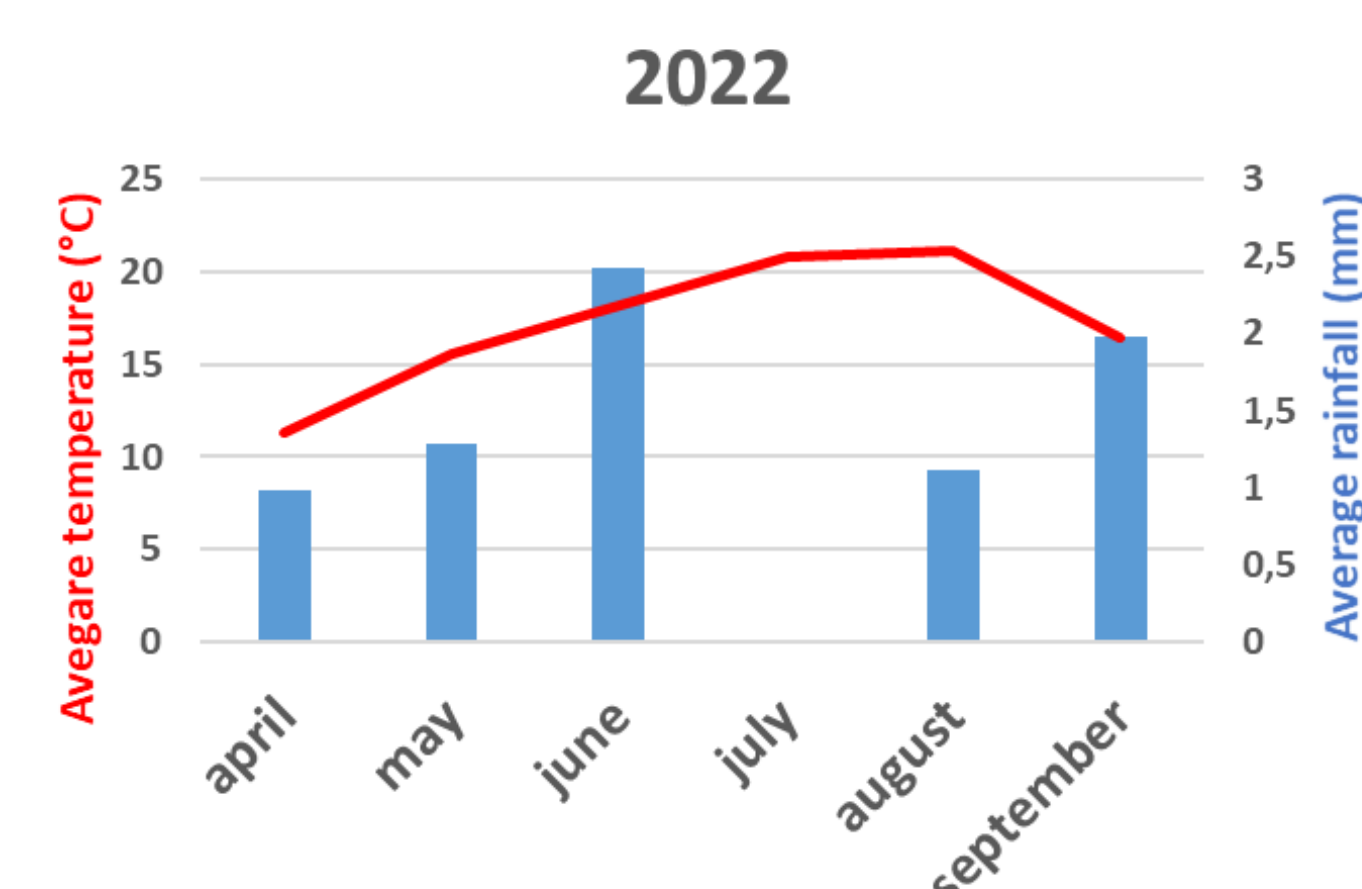
### Soil biological fertility:

- Abundance, diversity and activity of macrofauna (arthropods, earthworms), mesofauna (mites, springtails), microfauna (nematodes) and microorganisms
- Soil stability



## Main observations

### Weather conditions



Ajouter le graphique 2023

### Biological results

- Trend for a **higher regulation** of some potato diseases and pests **in the no ploughing field** (common scab, black scurf, colorado beetle)
- Trend for a **higher biological fertility in the no ploughing field** (earthworms, macrofauna, nematodes, microbial biomass, decomposition speed of organic matter, soil stability)
- **Interaction** with variety and initial inoculum on tubers (for black scurf)
- Results depend on the year and **must be confirmed**



# From soil biological fertility to potato health

## How to assess soil biological quality?

Puech C.<sup>1</sup>, Bouчек K.<sup>1</sup>, Kröner A.<sup>1</sup>, Béduneau F.<sup>1</sup>, Maestrali M.<sup>1</sup>, Andrivon D.<sup>2</sup>, Pasco C.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> FN3PT/innov3PT ; <sup>2</sup> INRAE UMR IGEPP ; <sup>3</sup> INRAE UE La Motte



### Soil community

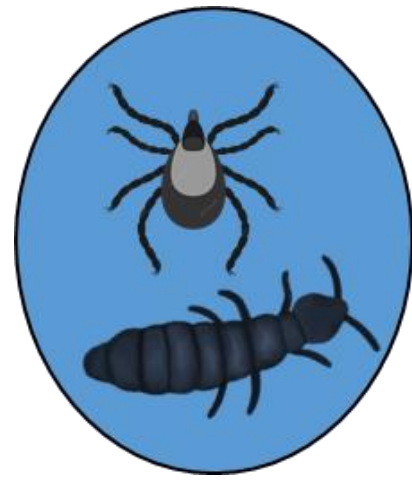
- All organisms spending a part or their entire life in the soil
- Biodiversity reservoir : high biomass, high diversity, complex interactions
- Biological groups (classified by size, fauna only) :

#### Macrofauna 2mm-50mm



earthworms, carabid beetles, wireworms, etc.

#### Mesofauna 200µm-2mm



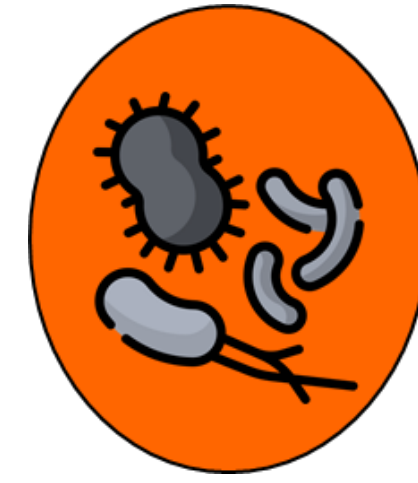
mites, springtails, etc.

#### Microfauna 5µm-200µm



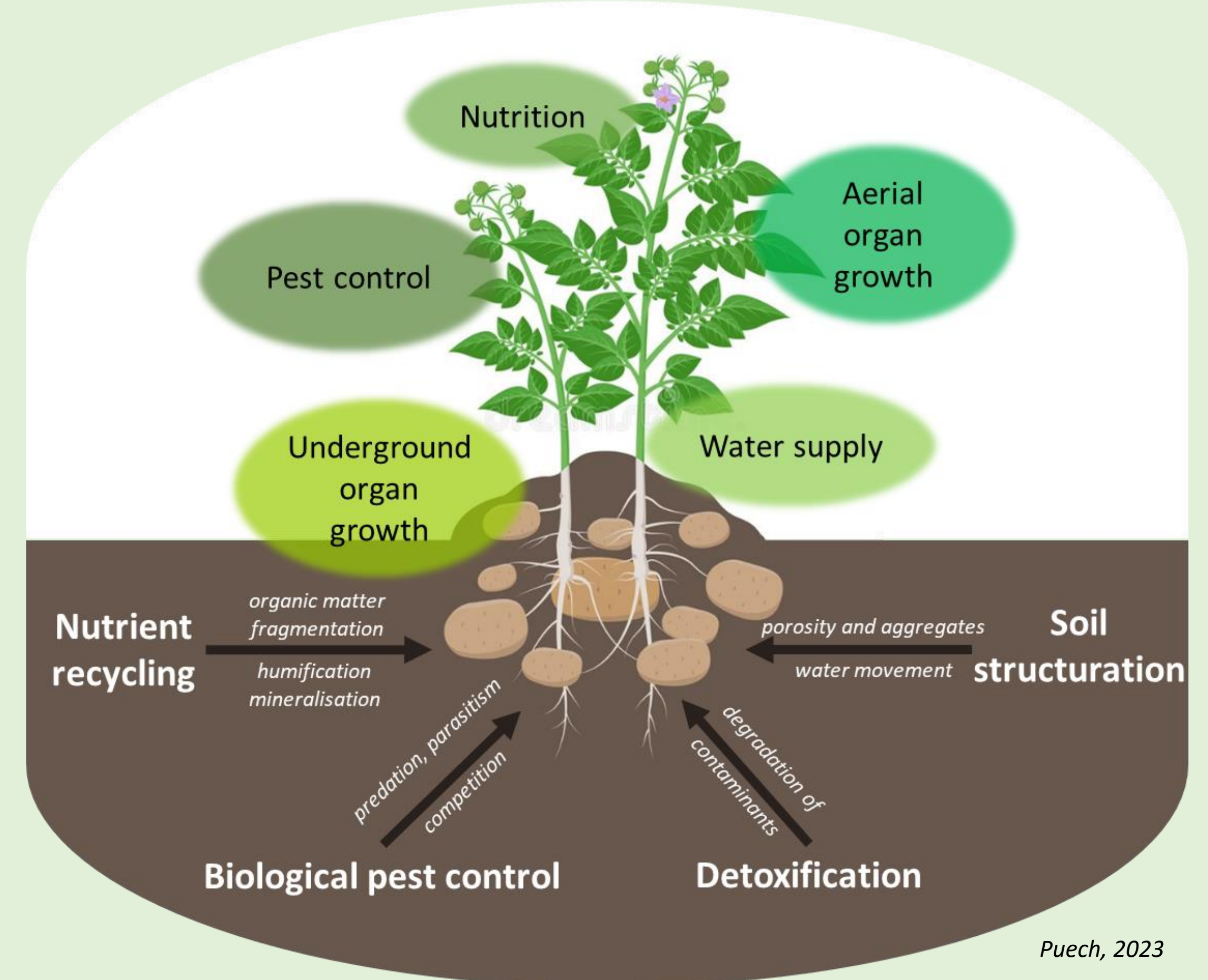
nematodes, protozoa, etc.

#### Micro-organisms 1µm-100µm



bacteria and fungi

→ A large set of ecological functions



Puech, 2023

### Goals of this work

- To measure the **effects of tillage on soil biological quality** in a long-term experiment
- To identify **unexpensive and simple methods** for routine use in field trials and by producers

## Which methods are used to assess soil biological quality

#### The underpants method

- To measure biological activity
- Cotton underpants are buried for 2 months
- Organic matter degradation is estimated

#### The tea bag & the bait lamina test

- To measure biological activity
- Tea bags and bait lamina are buried for 3 weeks or 3 months
- Organic matter degradation is estimated at different depths

#### The slake test

- To measure soil structural stability (indirectly related to biological fertility)
- With a soil stability kit or with pickle jars
- Soil aggregates are immersed in water and soil stability can be estimated

#### The earthworms spade test

- To measure abundance, biomass and diversity of earthworms
- A 20\*20\*25cm soil sample is extracted and crumbled
- Earthworms are counted and identified

#### The pitfall trap

- To measure abundance and diversity of ground-dwelling organisms
- A plastic pot is buried to capture organisms moving across the soil
- Organisms are identified with a binocular magnifier

#### The Oostenbrink dish

- To measure abundance and diversity of free-living nematodes
- A soil sample is put on a sheet of filter paper and immersed in water
- Nematodes swim through the filter paper and are extracted and counted

+ Microbial analyses (made by a private laboratory) : microbial biomass, carbon and nitrogen mineralisation potential, organic matter fractionation

## When is soil biological quality assessed?

### 3 possibilities

- february-march**  
To evaluate the initial soil biological state of the field
- april-august**  
To evaluate the soil biological state of the field during the growing season
- october-november**  
To evaluate the final soil biological state of the field

### In our long term experiment :

february    march    april    may    june    july    august    september

PLANTATION    LEVÉE    DÉVELOPPEMENT    FORMATION DES ÉLÉMENTS    ÉPANOUISSEMENT    FRUCTIFICATION    DESSECHÉMENT    MATURITÉ DES TUBERCULES

Earthworms spade test (february-march)

Pitfall traps (june-july)

Oostenbrink dish (july-august)

Slake test (july-august)

Sampling for microbial analyses (july-august)

Bait lamina test (july-august)

Underpants method + Tea bags (february-march)





**inov3PT**  
SEED POTATO  
FOR THE FUTURE

# Design, experimentation and evaluation of an agroecological cropping system for seed potato production

Puech C.<sup>1</sup>, Libert M.<sup>2</sup>, Merlin H.<sup>3</sup>, Vast S.<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup> FN3PT/inov3PT ; <sup>2</sup> Comité Nord Plants ; <sup>3</sup> Unéal



## CONTEXT

### Seed potato crops

Large diversity of pests and diseases  
Progressive banning of pesticides  
High tillage intensity

### Need for a systemic approach

Cropping system scale  
Consistent combination of alternative farming practices  
Collective brainstorming

### North of France 3 collaborators

*Comité nord*  
(farmer association specialized in seed potatoes)  
*Unéal*  
(farmer cooperative)  
*inov3PT*  
(R&D team from a technical institute specialized in seed potatoes)

## 3 AIMS

- 1 Reduce the use of pesticides by 50%
- 2 Maintain economic results and quality of the production
- 3 Increase soil fertility

## DESIGN

### 1 reference cropping system

= representative of the average practices implemented by farmers in the region  
→ designed according to experts and to a survey with farmers

### 1 innovative cropping system

→ designed collectively during a workshop with farmers, agronomists and experts on potato diseases and pests management



## EXPERIMENT

### Experimental station 2020-2026



Reference + innovative systems  
→ 12 micro-plots

Regular observations and measurements

## EVALUATION

### Field observations

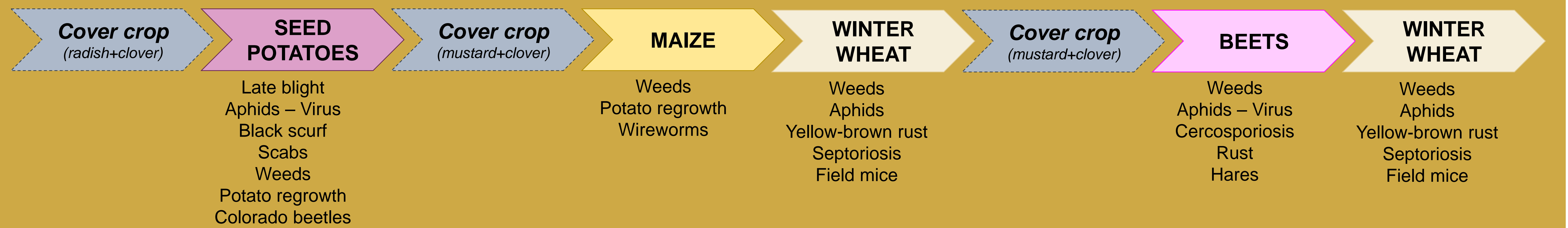
↓  
Indicators for goals achievement  
(TFI, gross margin, % organic matter, etc.)

### Multicriteria analyses

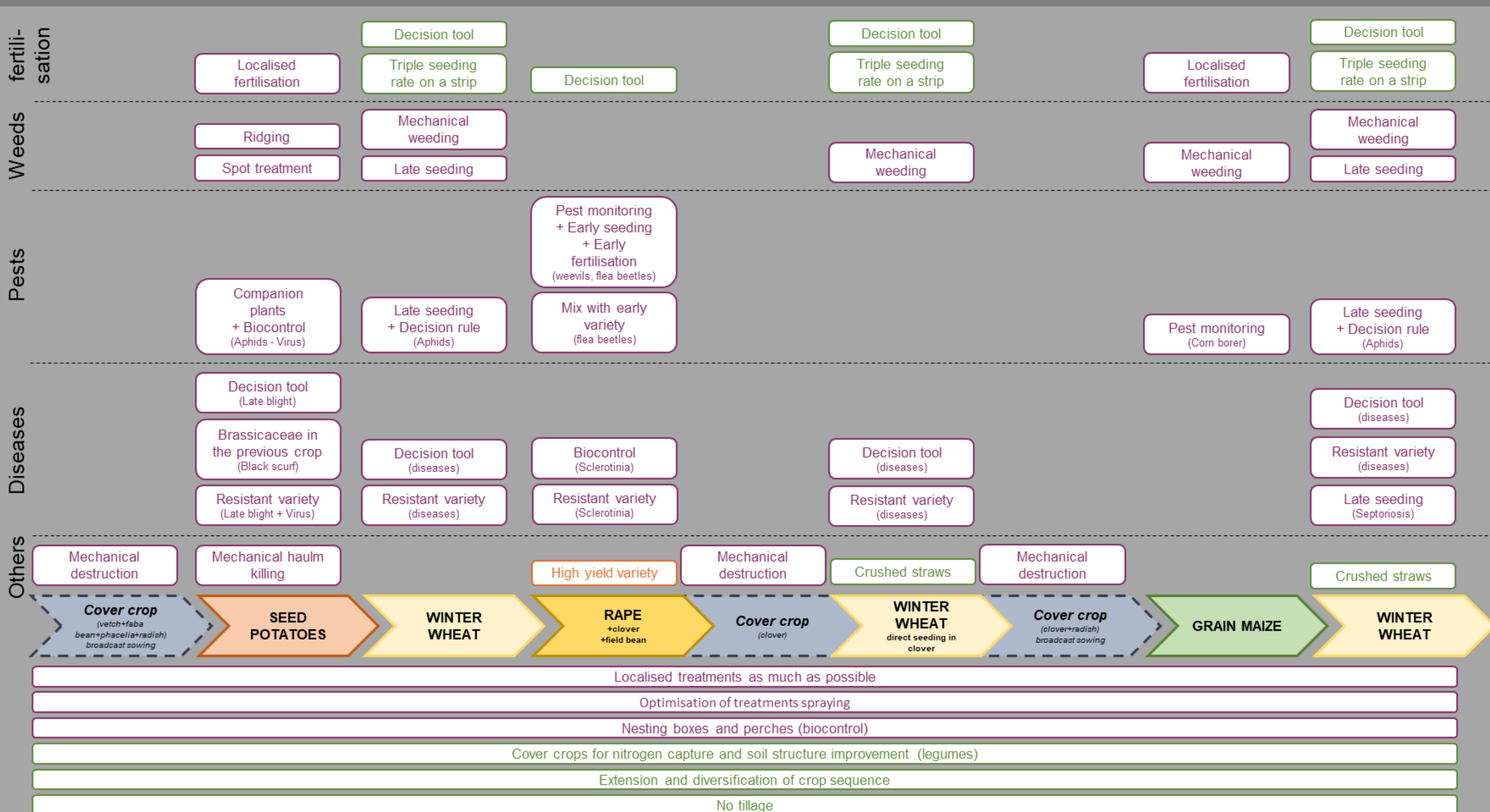
↓  
Indicators for environmental, economical and social sustainability



## REFERENCE CROPPING SYSTEM & MAIN ISSUES



## INNOVATIVE CROPPING SYSTEM



- 1) Reduce the use of pesticides by 50%
- 2) Maintain economical results and quality of the production
- 3) Increase soil fertility



EAPR Pathology and Pests Section  
3-6 September 2023  
Arras (France)

RECHERCHE - DEVELOPPEMENT - INNOVATION  
DES PRODUCTEURS DE PLANTS DE POMME DE TERRE